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PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

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Miles Horst, Secretary of Agriculture

Vol. 29 | Harrisburg, March 16, 1944 | No. 11

LIVESTOCK VALUES REACH RECORD HIGH OF $255,690,000

AN all-time high record value of $255,690,000 for all livestock and poultry on Pennsylvania farms as of January 1 is reported by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

The total represents an increase of $18,382,000 over the January 1, 1943 inventory, or an advance of 8 per cent. It is approximately $111,000,000 or 77 per cent higher than the 10-year average values reported for the same January dates from 1933 to 1942.

Emphasizing the importance of wartime milk production, milk cows showed the greatest total advance in value, and the greatest decline was experienced in hogs.

Cattle—All cattle, including milk cows, increased 3 per cent in numbers during the year, reaching a total of 1,607,000. The farm value per head increased 8 per cent to $105.60, making the total value $169,754,000, an increase of nearly $17,700,000 over 1943 estimates.

The State's 924,000 milk cows, at an average value of $142 per head, are estimated to be worth $131,208,000, an advance of $16,146,000 over the January 1, 1943 value on the basis of $127 per head for 906,000 cows. The value per cow increased 12 per cent during the year, compared with increases of 3 per cent in New York and Ohio.

The number of cattle and calves on January 1, was 3 per cent greater than a year ago and the highest since 1920. All classes of cattle, except steers which declined 6 per cent, participated in this increase.

Swine—During 1943 Pennsylvania farms increased swine production to over a million head. On January 1 there were 967,000 hogs remaining on farms, approximately 160,000 or 20 per cent more than a year earlier. Increased production during the year brought the average January 1 price down from $21.60 to $14.20 per head, a drop of 34 per cent. For that reason the larger number of swine on hand January 1 were worth only $13,747,000 compared with $17,405,000 on the same date in 1943, a drop of $3,658,000.

The combined 1943 Spring and Fall Pennsylvania pig crop was 32 per cent greater than the 1942 crop but the indicated number of sows to farrow this Spring is 10 per cent less than the number farrowed last Spring. Department observers say this drop is due largely to the scarcity of feed and prices not being favorable to increased production. Pigs under six months showed an increase of 24 per cent, sows and gilts a decrease of 9 per cent, and other hogs six months old and over an increase of 27 per cent.

Poultry—Chicken numbers on Pennsylvania farms increased 7 per cent and turkeys 6 per cent from January 1, 1943 to January 1, 1944. Some differences between intentions and actual purchases of baby chicks may be expected, depending upon egg prices during the hatching season and the egg-feed and chicken-feed price relationships.

This year's inventory of chickens showed approximately 25,000,000 on Pennsylvania farms, worth $1.40 each, or almost $35,000,000. This was a gain of $5,555,000 over 1943. The average turkey this year was worth $5.80, a gain of 80 cents, and the total value of the 187,000 on hand January 1 was $1,085,000, an increase of $205,000. Turkey growers plan to raise 9 per cent more turkeys this year than in 1943.

Horses and Mules—There was no change in the value of horses per head, at $121, the 232,000 animals being valued at slightly more than $28,000,000. Mules increased 4 per cent in value and the 38,000 on hand January 1 were worth $5,343,000, a decrease of $50,000.

Sheep—The value of sheep dropped 10 per cent per head to $7.50, and with 3 per cent fewer inventoried this year, the total value was $2,749,000.

VICTORY GARDENERS URGED TO TEST OLD SEED BEFORE SOWING

VICTORY gardeners who have seeds left over from last year will be wise if they do a little home testing to see if the seeds are worth planting this year, according to those in charge of the seed testing laboratory in the Bureau of Plant Industry.

Germination tests, which tell whether a seed germ is "alive" or "dead", can be made with dampened paper toweling, a couple of plates and a little patience, Bureau botanists say.

Some seeds usually are worthless when more than a year old. These include seed of carrots, leeks, parsley, parsnips and salsify. Seed remnants of these should be discarded.

Another group of seeds where doubt is held as to usefulness after the first year, includes peas, onion, pepper and garden soybeans. Seeds of a third group may be good for two or three years, including beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, corn, cucumber, pumpkin, radish, squash, tomato and turnip.

To run a germination test at home, count out a definite number of seeds—25, 50 or 100—and place them between layers of double-thick, wet paper toweling. Select the seeds at random, testing each variety by itself. For small seeds the toweling may be placed on a dinner plate and covered with another plate turned upside down to hold the moisture. Larger seeds may be placed between two layers of wet paper toweling which is then rolled and the ends secured with string or rubber bands. The rolls are placed on end in an empty bucket which should be covered with newspapers. Plates and buckets should be kept where daytime temperature is about 70 degrees and night about 60 degrees.

In 6 to 8 days tests on corn, peas, radish and lettuce are ready for checking. Most other seeds take from 15 to 20 days. Count all seeds that have sprouted and have formed many small hair roots. If 50 out of 100 seeds tested show sprouts and hair roots, half of the old seed may be considered as good, and the gardener should sow twice as much to get as good a stand of plants as would be expected from new or fresh seed. Beets, lettuce and Swiss chard seeds require soaking in tepid water for three hours before running germination tests.

RADIO BROADCAST

THE varied services to the farmer and to the general public that are rendered by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture will be described by Secretary Horst in a radio interview with Mert Emmert, farm director of WEAF, to be broadcast by that station (660 on the dial) between 6:30 and 7:00 A.M. on Thursday, March 23. The title of the broadcast is "Value of the Department to Farmers and Consumers."

POULTRY DECLINES CAUSE INDEX DROP

MODERATE advances in the prices received by Pennsylvania farmers for most meat animals were more than offset by declines in poultry and other products during the month ended February 15, while grains as a group remained about stationary, according to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Prices received for eggs dropped to an average of 32.9 cents a dozen, declining nearly 4½ cents between January 15 and February 15, for a total reduction of slightly more than 19 cents a dozen since December 15.

Seasonal increase in milk production, as more cows freshened, brought a drop of 5 cents per hundred pounds, though demands for fluid milk continued strong. Observers point out that milk production in Pennsylvania, due to feed shortages and low prices received by farmers, continues below records of the past two years. Production in January was 3 per cent below the same month last year.

Using prices received from 109 to 1914 as a base of 100, the index of poultry products on February 15 showed a decrease of 13 points to 146 during the month. The index of prices received for principal agricultural products declined 1 point to 204. On the same basis, the prices farmers pay for goods and services increased 1 point to 170, and the farmers' purchasing power fell off 1 point to 120, showing a 7 point drop since December 15. Following are comparisons on prices received:

	Feb. 15 1943	Jan. 15 1944	Feb. 15 1944
Wheat, Bu.	$ 1.35	$ 1.64	$ 1.64
Corn, Bu.	1.01	1.41	1.41
Oats, Bu.	.62	.92	.92
Barley, Bu.	.81	1.28	1.26
Rye, Bu.	.85	1.22	1.27
Buckwheat, Bu.	.88	1.36	1.35
Potatoes, Bu.	1.40	1.75	1.75
Hay, Ton	13.90	17.70	17.90
Apples, Bu.	1.35	2.75	3.00
Hogs, Cwt.	15.40	13.10	13.30
Beef cattle, Cwt.	13.10	12.40	12.60
Veal calves, Cwt.	16.90	14.80	15.00
Sheep, Cwt.	6.60	5.40	5.80
Lambs, Cwt.	13.90	13.50	13.40
Milk cows, Head	134.00	150.00	150.00
Horses, Head	128.00	131.00	137.00
Mules, Head	136.00	136.00	145.00
Chickens, Lb.	.259	.273	.269
Turkeys, Lb.	.36	.405	.395
Milk, whlse, Cwt.	3.20	3.65	3.60
Milk, retail, Qt.	.139	.143	.143
Butter, Lb.	.51	.49	.49
Butterfat, Lb.	.50	.50	.50
Eggs, Doz.	.362	.373	.329
Wool, Lb.	.44	.43	.41

SLIGHT HOPE SEEN FOR RELIEF IN FEED SHORTAGE IN STATE

THERE is some hope that a slight degree of relief might come to farmers of Pennsylvania and other Northeastern states in the current livestock and poultry feed scarcity through additional grain shipments by rail from western Canada, Secretary Horst said recently.

Discussing results of a conference with War Food Administrator Marvin Jones held on March 7, which he attended as a member of a special contact committee of three appointed at a late February meeting of the 10-state Northeastern Governors' Feed Committee, the Secretary said the group received "no definite assurance of adequate feed supplies" from Washington officials.

The 100 million bushels of feed grains shipped by boat from Canada to lake-head storage points such as Buffalo and Cleveland last Fall while the lakes were free from ice have brought temporary relief, the speaker explained. Administrator Jones had requested 200 freight cars daily to continue the flow of grains, but there were indications that not more than 100 cars daily could be allocated until Spring when boats once more can be used for transportation.

Secretary Horst expressed belief that 100 cars daily would not be sufficient, even with the backlog of stocks at lake ports, for feed grain supplies in the Northeast are due to get tight during the balance of the 1943-44 feeding season which closes the first of October.

Pennsylvania and the Nation had all-time record high cattle populations on farms as of January 1, he declared. Compared with the previous year there was a 7 per cent increase in livestock for the Nation, and 1944 started with 14 per cent less feed grain supplies. Pennsylvania had 3 per cent more cattle, 20 per cent more hogs and 7 per cent more chickens January 1, 1944, than a year earlier, he reminded.

"The over-all feed outlook is getting progressively worse," Secretary Horst continued. "If there is to be maximum production of milk and eggs for city consumers this year, our farmers must be assured of more corn and concentrates than they are now getting. Present feed mixes are too low in protein. With 18,000 more milk cows in Pennsylvania than last year, production of milk in January fell off 3 per cent from the previous January. In the Nation production per cow has dropped 4 to 6 per cent, chiefly because feeding is 5 per cent below a year ago."

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RECORD NUMBER OF SLAUGHTER HOUSES PADLOCKED IN 1943

THREE slaughter houses have been ordered closed in Pennsylvania so far this year because of insanitary conditions. Efforts on the part of agents of the Bureau of Animal Industry during the past year, when a record number of 217 slaughter houses were closed, are being continued into the third year of the war to provide wholesome meat supplies for the Armed Forces and civilians, Secretary Horst declared recently.

During 1943 the Bureau's meat hygiene division examined 7,663 slaughter houses and found 340 defective on first and second examinations. The closing of 217 compares with only ten padlocked because of insanitary conditions during the entire year 1942. Establishments closed during 1943 represent the largest number shut down since 1930 when the total was 101. From 1930 to 1940 the number of slaughter houses closed per year averaged about 43. In 1941 only eight establishments were closed.

The record number of slaughter houses closed in 1943 is attributed largely to the fact that of approximately 3,000 Federal slaughtering permits issued last Spring and Summer many persons who received them did not have proper buildings or equipment in which to do their slaughtering. Agents of the Department in many cases found slaughtering being conducted in the open air and many who had received Federal permits had no butchering facilities whatever.

"Department investigators made many visits to holders of slaughtering permits from April to August, and in closing the so-called slaughter houses, they uncovered and cleaned up many potential sources of unwholesome meat intended for human consumption," Secretary Horst said.

The meat hygiene division reports that for the first two months of this year 564 slaughter houses were examined and two were closed in January and one in February. In the same period more than 51,000 animals were slaughtered under the supervision of State inspectors and 223 carcasses had to be condemned as unfit for human consumption. Out of more than 700,000 pounds of poultry killed under inspection, nearly 10,000 pounds were condemned.

SUGAR BUSHES START ANNUAL SAP FLOW

SAP started to flow early in March in some of the many Pennsylvania groves of sugar maple trees, known as "sugar bushes." For the next few weeks the collection and boiling down of maple sap will keep farmers busy in various parts of the State. The leading maple products counties are Somerset, Erie, Crawford, Tioga, Bradford, Potter and Warren.

Over a period of ten years Pennsylvania has ranked as fourth highest among all the states in maple products according to records in the Pennsylvania Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

The Bureau of Markets, which assists maple sirup producers in the grading of their product, has prepared grade color standards consisting of three bottles matched in color with a master model in the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Washington.

Weather conditions last year were unfavorable to the flow of sap, and the shortage of labor handicapped operations in many sections of Pennsylvania during the season which opened about March 7 and closed about April 12. Sap runs were infrequent, the flow was light, the sap was low in sugar content and the quality of sirup was mostly below average.

Last year's production of 95,000 gallons of sirup and 27,000 pounds of sugar compared with 128,000 gallons and 40,000 pounds produced in 1942. The 10-year average production, 1932-41, was 173,000 gallons of sirup and 73,000 pounds of sugar.

STATE SECRETARY DECLARES STAND AGAINST AUCTION PRICE CEILINGS ON FARM MACHINERY

REFERRING to suits brought against a Lebanon County farmer and a farm auctioneer on charges of violating an OPA regulation on the sale of used farm machinery, Secretary of Agriculture Miles Horst, in the course of an address before members of the Delaware-Chester County Farm Bureau at West Chester on March 11, said:

"Recognizing to the fullest the necessity of the principle of price regulation as an anti-inflationary measure in wartime emergency, I am unalterably opposed to undue interference with our democratic way of life by the Federal Government or any other bureaucratic agency, whether it be Harrisburg or Washington.

"An effort is now being made to break down and wreck the long-established and generally popular system whereby Pennsylvania farmers rid themselves of surplus stock, equipment and implements through the medium of the traditional Pennsylvania method of public sale when they give up farming.

"Public sales, as Pennsylvania farmers have developed them since the days of William Penn, not only offer the owners of such surplusage their only opportunity to sell unneeded property at a reasonable price, but they offer also an opportunity for the farmer to buy, at a figure he can afford to pay, any stock or equipment he may need. They offer opportunity to assure such stock or equipment getting into the hands of those farmers who actually need them in production of more food for war.

"On this method of free exchange one farm is freed from implements it no longer needs and another acquires greatly needed equipment. Instead of breaking down this system of farm sales, thousands of which are held Spring and Fall in Pennsylvania to the profit of all concerned, the Federal authorities should be encouraging them as a conservation measure, thus keeping all available machinery and equipment in maximum use.

"As to price, the thrifty Pennsylvania farmer may be trusted in his own good judgment not to pay more than the article offered is worth. I regard these prosecutions as unwarwanted interference with individual rights and destructive of our farm economy.

"If the Federal Government had devoted half the energy to the prevention of strikes in farm implement manufacturing plants as it has to snooping, there might now be plenty of new farm implements, instead of a perilous shortage."

LABOR UNCERTAINTY PERPLEXING PROBLEM

UNCERTAINTY of the farm labor situation is the most perplexing problem confronting Pennsylvania farmers at present, according to the March 1 general crop survey of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Secretary Miles Horst believes that much of this uncertainty is due to lack of understanding on the part of farmers generally on what effect the recently revised Selective Service regulations might ultimately have on their own farms where they have been depending on their sons or hired workers of draft age, or where farm operators themselves are subject to military service.

"The serious part of it is that without knowing how much labor will be available throughout the Spring and Summer, many farmers are unable now to figure out what they will be able to accomplish in the way of Spring plantings," the Secretary declared. "The Crop Reporting Service is now making a special state-wide survey on planting intentions."

February weather was hard on winter grains and new seedings, the March 1 crop report states. Condition of winter wheat and rye was reported the lowest in the last eight years, but the root systems were generally good.

Both livestock and machinery are bringing good prices at sales. Surplus stocks of potatoes are heavy, with the demand sluggish. Most of the tobacco crop has been sold. Cutting pulpwood, for which there is good demand at favorable prices, is a major activity on many farms. Precipitation during February was deficient for the fourth month in succession.

STATE RANKED 16TH IN OATS PRODUCTION

IN SPITE of unfavorable weather conditions, Pennsylvania farmers produced enough oats last year to rank the State 16th among all the states in the production of this crop, according to a recent survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. The wet Spring and dry Summer reduced the 1943 oats yield to 19.5 bushels per acre and in this respect the State ranked 43rd in the Nation.

However, Pennsylvania stood 15th among the states in the number of acres upon which oats were grown, a total of 763,000 acres being harvested. This acreage, and the fact that total production of close to 15,000,000 bushels ranked the State fairly high in production, enabled Pennsylvania to stand 16th in the value of the total crop, a figure which is reported at $12,646,000.

GET AFTER GARDEN INSECT PESTS NOW

SOME timely suggestions whereby Victory gardeners may reduce damage from insect pests before planting their 1944 gardens have been listed by Dr. T. L. Guyton, Director, Bureau of Plant Industry.

Destruction of all plant refuse and early plowing or spading of the ground are recommended as being most helpful in killing insect pests before they get a chance to develop and multiply when warmer weather comes.

The Victory gardener who neglected to get his crop remnants in a compost heap last Fall should rake these together and burn them now. The raking of refuse should extend well into fence rows and into the neighboring permanent plantings.

This burning will do much toward destroying many pests in their overwintering forms. Among them are the European corn borer, the Mexican bean beetle, several different flea beetles, the cucumber beetle, squash bug and others. The destruction of this refuse will also destroy overwintering diseases which had established themselves on the plants last year.

Early plowing or spading of the garden will help in the control of some other pests such as the horn worm which attacks tomatoes, and the pickle worm which gets into squash and cucumber vines. To be effective, this early plowing and spading should be done in time for the soil to be frozen before the planting season comes.

FOOD INSPECTIONS GROW IN WARTIME

INCREASED need for wartime inspection of foods offered for sale in Pennsylvania is reflected in a recent annual report by the Bureau of Foods and Chemistry.

Food agents made more than a thousand additional inspections and investigations during 1943 than were made in the previous year, a total of 46,647 compared with 45,357.

As a further indication of the vigilance of State food inspectors it is revealed that fewer investigations were made last year on complaints of customers than the year previous 737 against 760. There was also an increase in the number of prosecutions for violators of State food laws, the 532 prosecutions instituted in 1943 being 35 more than were brought the year before.

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STATE AGENCIES TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARD POST-WAR PLANNING

ALL State agencies contributing to the advancement of Pennsylvania agriculture will be called upon to assist farmers in the solution of new and difficult problems that are seen coming in the post-war period, Secretary Horst declared in a recent address to faculty members and students of the School of Agriculture at the Pennsylvania State College.

The agencies he referred to include the State Department of Agriculture, the instructional, research and extension services of the Penn State School of Agriculture, vocational agriculture in the public schools, and various services in State departments such as Highways, Forests and Waters, internal Affairs, Public Instruction, and Commerce.

"When the war is over and war-torn nations of the world are assisted in replenishing food and livestock supplies," Secretary Horst said, "farm problems will be such that maximum service will be required of every available agency.

"The growing complexity of the industry of agriculture is such that in the post-war period the general public will be as greatly concerned with food supplies as it is right now.

"The consuming public is bound to be more discriminating in its selection and use of available foods. Quality will be sought then just as quantity is the greatest present primary need. Carefully selected fruits, vegetables and other foods will be demanded in attractive packages. Day-old eggs, sweet corn and some vegetables may be the rule rather than the exception.

"How can the grower, especially the small farmer, overcome the difficulties involved in the increased competition that is bound to come?

"Our farmers generally have shown ability to meet such problems in the past and there is little doubt but that they will continue to meet them in the future. However, those State agencies that have been established to assist the farmer through research and instruction, and have been helpful to him in other years, will be looked to for a type of guidance that will reduce periods of experimentation to a minimum."

NEW REGULATION GOVERNS ALL ADDITIONS TO HERDS AND BANG QUARANTINE AREAS IN STATE

Regulation Number 545

Superseding Regulation No. 534—Revised

Governing additions to herds and quarantined areas under Federal-State supervision for the control of Bang Disease (Bovine Brucellosis) in cattle.

Effective May 1, 1944

All cattle, except steers and cattle for immediate slaughter, to be moved into a Bang Disease Quarantined Area or for additions to other herds under Federal-State supervision, shall be handled as follows:

Sec. 1. Cattle from Accredited Bang Disease-Free Herds or negative herds in Modified Accredited Bang Disease-Free Areas, when officially blood tested with negative results within one year of date of entry, may enter herds in other Modified Accredited Areas or other Quarantined Areas without being retested for Bang disease.

Sec. 2. Cattle from other herds under Federal-State supervision for the control of Bang disease in which all animals in the herd over six months of age were negative to an official test within three (3) months of date of entry, and the individual animals to be moved were negative to an official test within thirty (30) days of the date of entry, may enter herds in a Modified Accredited Bang Disease-Free Area or other Quarantined Areas in the process of Accreditation without further test.

Sec. 3. Cattle coming directly from negative herds in Modified Accredited Bang Disease-Free Areas, as provided in Sec. 1, or from other negative herds under Federal-State supervision, as provided in Sec. 2, may be added to Non-Accredited herds without an additional test.

Sec. 4. If more than one year has elapsed since the herd was blood tested and negative, Sec. 1, or more than three (3) months have elapsed since the herd was blood tested and negative, Sec. 2, it will be necessary that the entire herd be tested with negative results, or that the individual animals to be moved be retested and negative within thirty (30) days of entry, and shall be maintained in proper isolation, quarantined and retested in thirty (30) to sixty (60) days after date of entry. If found negative, the animals shall be released from quarantine and added to the herd.

Sec. 5. Cattle coming directly from negative herds in Modified Accredited Bang Disease-Free Areas, Sec. 1, or from other negative herds under Federal-State supervision for the control of Bang disease, as provided in Sec. 2, may be added to a Bang Disease-Free Accredited (Certified) Herd after passing one additional negative test as follows: If open (not bred), the animal must be held in isolation and tested after thirty (30) days. If pregnant (bred), the animal must be held in isolation until an official test is conducted not less than two weeks after the calving date and before being bred.

Sec. 6. Cattle from Bang Disease-Free Accredited (Certified) Herds may be added to any herd without an additional Bang disease test.

Sec. 7. Unvaccinated calves under six months of age will not be required to be blood tested, provided they come directly from negative or Accredited Bang Disease-Free Herds in accordance with Sections 1 and 2.

Sec. 8. Cattle, which have been vaccinated under Federal-State supervision as calves between four and eight months of age and are negative to an official blood test, may enter herds and areas under Federal-State supervision as provided in Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, except that the status of the herd in which calfhood vaccination is being practiced will be determined by the results of blood tests of all unvaccinated animals over six months of age and all vaccinated animals two years of age or over.

Sec. 9. Cattle moved in accordance with preceding requirements shall be accompanied by an officially approved certificate issued by the cooperating Federal or State regulatory official.

Sec. 10. Cattle shipped into Pennsylvania in compliance with the regulations governing admission of cattle for dairy and breeding purposes for additions to herds and areas under official supervision for Bang disease control, shall be held in isolation and retested after thirty (30) days, if open (not bred); or, if pregnant (bred), shall be kept in isolation until a blood test is conducted not less than two weeks after the calving date and before being bred.

Sec. 11. Bang disease infected herds shall be placed in quarantine, and no cattle from such herds shall be permitted to be moved for additions to herds under Federal-State supervision until the herds are credited with at least two consecutive negative blood tests at intervals from thirty (30) to ninety (90) days.

This regulation is in conformity with the uniform methods and rules for the establishment and maintenance of Modified Accredited Bovine Brucellosis (Bang Disease) Free Areas adopted by the United States Live Stock Sanitary Association and approved by the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture.

Approved: February 15, 1944.

Department of Agriculture
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
MILES HORST,
Secretary of Agriculture

Attest:
C. P. BISHOP, Director
Bureau of Animal Industry

LAST CALL FOR CORN BORER DESTRUCTION

JUST as housewives carry on a constant battle against clothes moths, so Victory gardners and farmers must continually keep fighting the European corn borer, and Spring is the time for laying down the heaviest barrage for the destruction of each pest, the Bureau of Plant Industry warns.

Corn borers are known to exist in 31 southeastern and northwestern Pennsylvania counties in varying degrees of infestation in gardens and corn fields where corn, and heavy-stemmed crops, flowers and weeds grew last Summer. The week of April 10 to 15 has been set for Victory gardners in the infested areas to observe as "Corn Borer Clean-up Week." Farmers are urged to cooperate at that time in destruction of the pest that will do greater damage this year than last if allowed to go undisturbed until warmer weather arrives.

With the coming of the first warm days in the latter part of April the hibernating, whitish, dark-headed borer worms, averaging about three-fourths inch in length, transform into their pupal or resting stage. In about two weeks the slender, brownish pupa develops into a yellowish-brown parent moth, with wings that expand about one inch.

The corn borer moth lays its eggs in small transparent clusters usually on the under side of the leaves of young corn plants. In four or five days tiny borers appear and work their way into the plant, when little can be done by way of control or eradication. Spraying the egg clusters during the few days in which they are exposed is advisable but cannot be very effective, especially with the expected scarcity of the best spray materials.

"Home gardeners should rake up and burn all plant rubbish still remaining on their plots by April 15," the Bureau entomologists say. "On farm fields where stalks are still standing they should be poled down, raked and shredded or burned, or plowed under to a depth of at least six inches, thus destroying the borers. County Agents and the Agricultural Extension Service of the Pennsylvania State College will gladly provide detailed information. If the weather remains cold this work may be done safely by May 1, but no corn stalks or stubble should be left undestroyed after warmer weather comes."

MORE CABBAGE

WITH the hope that help will be available when crops are ready to harvest, some commercial vegetable growers in Pennsylvania have decided to plant increased acreages this Spring, according to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

"Truck crop growers are speculating on plans for the coming season," the report states. "With the help situation so uncertain, many good intentions may not materialize."

Earliest reports on intentions to plant more or less acreages than last year have come from growers of cabbage, who indicate they will plant only slightly less acreage than a year ago. The labor problem is the limiting factor, and some growers appear willing to gamble with prospects.

Precipitation during the forepart of March averaged above normal for the first time in four months of continued deficiency. Temperatures averaged below normal.

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HATCHERY REPORT INDICATES FEWER EGGS NEXT WINTER

SIGNS pointing toward a falling off in Pennsylvania all-time egg production records that have been established month after month for more than a year, are seen in the hatchery production report issued by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service for February.

Fewer baby chicks are being produced by commercial hatcheries. Fewer chicks now means fewer laying pullets for next Fall, and observers say there are bound to be fewer eggs produced next winter.

Hatcherymen report they set 8 per cent more eggs in February than they did for the same month last year, but got 4 per cent fewer chicks. The answer appears to be that there are more infertile eggs this year, and that there is a greater percentage of eggs in which the germ dies before the hatching process can be completed, attributed by some to the lower quality of feed now available.

Serious concern is expressed in an increasing percentage of cancellations of orders for baby chicks during February, higher than usual for that season of the year. Farmers are finding that they will be unable to handle as many chickens this year as last, labor and feed being major factors, according to observers. Some estimates place prospective output in Pennsylvania as much as 20 per cent below 1943.

Hatcherymen also are concerned with the practice of selling surplus chicks from other areas at auction at extremely low prices in localities in which there are established hatcheries. Eggs set by commercial hatcheries in Pennsylvania during February totaled 15,725,000, which was 1,165,000 more than the same month last year. Chicks hatched in February totaled 7,980,000 which was 333,000 fewer than a year previous.

REPORT TERMITES HAVING BIG YEAR

TERMITES, described as the "undercover" workers or "commandos" of the insect pest armies, are having a big year attacking wood floors and supports in homes, business and industrial buildings, judging from the increased number of requests for information on control that are coming to Dr. A. B. Champlain, entomologist in the Bureau of Plant Industry.

Damage by termites to structural wood can cause serious losses and accidents for they frequently bring about the collapse or partial collapse of various buildings. The time of year has arrived when migratory forms of the insects may fly short distances to establish new colonies. Although termites are sometimes called "white ants" they are not true ants and all are not white, some being black or yellow. The winged variety resemble black ants.

Termites do all their work in darkness and must have their nesting place where there is a constant supply of moisture in order to live. The colonies are found in moist soil, and to reach wood on which to work they frequently build shelter tubes or tunnels on the exterior of stone or concrete foundations.

To control termites Dr. Champlain suggests a mixture of one part coal tar creosote and three parts of light weight fuel oil. Find the nesting place in the soil and pour the mixture along the foundation wall in a ditch 30 inches deep, using four gallons to ten lineal feet. Add more mix as the trench is filled.

Suggestions for repair and control include the closing of all avenues between the ground and the material to be protected by putting up barriers of metal, concrete or chemically treated wood, impregnated under pressure with creosote or chromate zinc chloride.

SET 1945 FARM SHOW WEEK JANUARY 9, 10, 11

DATES for the 1945 Pennsylvania State Farm Show Week were set at a recent meeting of the Farm Show Commisison as Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, January 9, 10 and 11.

The Commission decided that for the third consecutive year there would be no exhibits or contests such as featured the annual event prior to the taking over of the vast Farm Show Building in Harrisburg by the U. S. Government following the 1942 exposition.

According to Secretary Horst, Chairman of the Farm Show Commisison, the general plan of the 1944 Farm Show Week will be followed in 1945, comprised entirely of meetings of state-wide farm organizations for the discussion of current and wartime problems of production, management and distribution of food.

The dates set for the 1945 Farm Show Week come at a time when the General Assembly usually takes a week in recess following its organization, a period when housing and restaurant facilities in Harrisburg can accommodate the 5,000 farm people expected to attend the various meetings.

The State Farm Show Committee, comprised of delegates chosen by 41 member farm organizations, held a meeting prior to that of the Commission when reports on 1944 Farm Show Week meetings were heard and preliminary plans made for the 1945 program. More definite plans for next January's sessions will be taken up at another meeting of the Farm Show Committee set for next October 5.

DECLINE IN POULTRY DROPS MARCH INDEX

DECLINES in prices received by Pennsylvania farmers for poultry products during the month ended March 15 were sufficient to force down the index of prices received for all farm products by one point for the second consecutive month, according to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

With prices received from 1909 to 1914 as a base of 100, the index of poultry products on March 15 showed a decrease of five points, to 141. A month earlier the same index had dropped 13 points to 146. On the same basis of calculation, the index of prices received for all farm products dropped from 204 to 203 from February 15 to March 15. Also, the index of prices farmers must pay for goods and services increased one point to 171, and the farmers' purchasing power fell off one point to 119, a drop of eight points since December 15.

The average price received for mules advanced $8 to $153 during the month, while milk cows averaged $154, an advance of $4. Horses brought $1 more per head, averaging $138. Eggs showed a drop of about 21 cents a dozen from December 15 prices.

While farmers had little or no grain to sell, there was little change in the prices paid for those amounts that did change hands. Comparisons follow:

	Mar. 15 1943	Feb. 15 1944	Mar. 15 1944
Wheat, Bu.	$ 1.41	$ 1.64	$ 1.65
Corn, Bu.	1.04	1.41	1.42
Oats, Bu.	.66	.92	.95
Barley, Bu.	.84	1.26	1.27
Rye, Bu.	.88	1.27	1.23
Buckwheat, Bu.	.89	1.35	1.30
Potatoes, Bu.	1.70	1.75	1.65
Hay, Ton	14.70	17.90	18.10
Apples, Bu.	1.60	3.00	3.20
Hogs, Cwt.	15.60	13.30	13.40
Beef cattle, Cwt.	13.40	12.60	12.60
Veal calves, Cwt.	17.00	15.00	14.90
Sheep, Cwt.	6.80	5.80	5.80
Lambs, Cwt.	14.00	13.40	13.40
Milk cows, Head	141.00	150.00	154.00
Horses, Head	136.00	137.00	138.00
Mules, Head	145.00	145.00	153.00
Chickens, Lb.	.278	.269	.271
Turkeys, Lb.	.365	.395	.375
Milk, whsl. Cwt.	3.25	3.65	3.60
Milk, retail, Qt.	.141	.143	.143
Butter, Lb.	.52	.49	.49
Butterfat, Lb.	.50	.50	.49
Eggs, Doz.	.353	.329	.312
Wool, Lb.	.45	.41	.42

BROOD OF 17-YEAR LOCUSTS COMING TO 3 COUNTIES IN MAY

ACCORDING to predictions, Brood I of the "seventeen-year locust" is due to invade the Pennsylvania fruit belt counties of Franklin, Adams and Cumberland in late May.

The coming of the 17-year pests may cause serious damage to fruit and other trees, but nothing compared with that which may come next year when Brood II of the periodical cicada will make its appearance over a much larger area along the Atlantic Seaboard from Connecticut to North Carolina. The 1945 visitation will extend over Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Pike, Potter, Schuylkill and Wyoming Counties. It is said that the locusts will not injure garden crops.

Last appearance of Brood I in Pennsylvania was in 1927 and Brood II was in 1928. After their Summer of life in the open in those years the offspring burrowed into the ground for a foot or more. For sixteen years the Brood I insects have lived underground on juices from roots of plants and trees. They are now ready to bore through the surface with the coming of warm weather to live in the open for about six weeks. Swarms of locusts will be seen at the height of their emergence in mid-June.

Tree damage by the pests usually is confined to the outer, tender twigs where the female locusts cut a series of long slits in the bark in which to lay their eggs. These cuts eventually weaken the twigs so that wind and weather cause them to break, hang down and wither.

Damage to orchards can be great in some areas. Growing fruit helps break the twigs at the weak points and both foliage and fruit wither and spoil. This injury usually affects the growth of fruit for the next year. Locusts are particularly destructive to young or newly planted fruit trees. There are no known methods for effective control of the seventeen-year locust.

MILK SUPPLY AND ICE CREAM MAKING

IF ICE CREAM manufacturers of Pennsylvania desire to maintain the State's rank as first in ice cream production, they should give immediate consideration to the continuing decrease in national milk production.

"Feed and labor shortages and scarcity of machinery on our dairy farms, if allowed to continue, can very well mean a still further reduction in ice cream manufacture," Secretary Horst told members of the wartime conference of the Association of Ice Cream Manufacturers of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware at Harrisburg on April 4.

"Feed dealers and farmers had trouble in getting corn last fall and are experiencing a return of that difficulty now," he said. "Last year some substantial supplies of oats, wheat and barley were shipped in. Oats and barley are scarce again and it is not possible to tell how much longer grains can be kept coming from Canada. Our farmers will be short of feed until our 1944 grain crops mature.

"In their plantings for 1944, Pennsylvania farmers will limit themselves to estimates of labor and machinery that will be available to plant, cultivate and harvest their crops. They will undertake to grow more feed grains, but since corn and soybean harvests come so close together they may have to sacrifice soybean acreage and thereby reduce a valuable protein supply. The danger we are heading toward is greater shortages of feed and labor and liquidation of some of our farm animals."

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'44 WHEAT OUTLOOK BRIGHTENS AS FARM GRAIN STOCKS FALL

PENNSYLVANIA FARMERS may harvest close to 3,500,000 more bushels of winter wheat this year than last. According to the general crop report on conditions in Pennsylvania on April 1, issued by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service, indications pointed to a winter wheat crop of 16,712,000 bushels, which compares with 13,277,000 bushels actually harvested last Summer.

The expected increase will be due to an estimated 20 per cent gain in acreage seeded last Fall over that seeded for harvest in 1943. The indicated yield per seeded acre on April 1 was one bushel less than last year, or an average of 17.5 bushels.

Grain Stocks

Approximately 9,000,000 bushels less corn, wheat and oats remained on Pennsylvania farms April 1 compared with holdings of the same grains a year ago.

Thousands of additional cattle, hogs and chickens, raised to help meet the increasing demand for wartime foods, have used up the 1943 corn crop to the point where only 37 per cent or approximately 14,400,000 bushels remained in farm corn cribs and feed bins. This compares with 44 per cent of the 1942 crop, or slightly more than 19 million bushels held a year ago.

A total of 3,224,000 bushels of wheat were reported on hand as of April 1, this being 24 per cent of the 1943 crop, compared with 23 per cent of the 1942 crop held a year ago.

Oats holdings of farmers on the first of this month totaled 5,356,000 bushels, or 36 per cent of the 1943 crop. A year earlier the holdings were 9,364,000 bushels, which also was 36 per cent of the previous year's crop which was much larger than the 1943 production.

Plowing Delayed

The month of March was cool and wet with daily temperatures averaging about two-thirds of a degree below normal. There was an excess of better than half an inch in precipitation for the month, the first time it was above normal since November. Frost was about all out of the ground by April 1 but it was then too wet for Spring plowing.

Snow protection for winter grains was the lightest since the winter of 1937-38. The ground remained frozen during most of the winter, but damage from freezing and thawing was comparatively light in the south central and southeastern areas where half of the State's wheat acreage is grown.

The condition of rye on April 1 was reported to be 77 per cent of normal compared with 83 per cent a year earlier. The condition of pastures was 80 per cent of normal compared with 84 per cent at the same time last year.

A few potatoes have been planted in the southeastern section of the State, the April 1 survey shows, and hay prospects in that area are better than in northern counties where some new seedings were badly "heaved" by alternate freezing and thawing.

Fruit Prospects

Fruit trees and grape vines in general suffered little winter injury and prospects on April 1 were very good for all fruit crops. Peach buds had begun to swell on some of the early varieties by that date. Many peach and cherry trees in Erie and other northwestern counties still show results of injury from the severe winter of 1942-43. The peach outlook in that area is for a very light crop this year. Sweet cherries may not produce so well, but sour cherry prospects are promising. Adams County cherry trees are in good condition, with no winter damage reported. Grape vines in the Erie belt apparently have suffered no winter injury.

BORER DAMAGE TO PENN'A SWEET CORN EXCEEDED $1,000,000

CALLING attention to the fact that Pennsylvania growers of sweet corn alone lost more than $1,000,000 worth of their crop last summer because of damage by the European corn borer, Secretary Horst last week declared that even greater losses could be expected next Summer unless preventive steps were taken immediately by farmers and Victory gardeners.

The estimate of a million dollar loss in Pennsylvania sweet corn was made by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, which reports total loss in the northeastern states to both sweet corn and farm field corn at $33,360,000. Of this amount nearly $27,000,000 was in field corn harvested for grain, and $5,560,000 in sweet corn. These estimates are almost double 1942 losses. Field corn losses were heaviest in Indiana, totaling about $11,500,000.

"From the U. S. Department report on corn borer damage, only a rough estimate can be made of the total damage to farm field corn in Pennsylvania, possibly several million dollars," the Secretary estimated. "If corn borers are permitted to increase this year at the same rate as last, the ultimate damage can very well be much higher because the value of our corn crops is increasing."

The borer worms, hibernating all winter, are about ready to enter the pupal stage and moths will be flying about the time young corn and potato plants are well above ground. Cool, wet weather in recent weeks has possibly delayed borer activities, and definitely has held up plowing under or burning old corn stubble and stalks still standing from last year's crop, a step that is absolutely necessary in controlling the pest.

Many Victory gardeners and farmers in the heavily infested southeastern and notheastern counties have met the initial April 15 deadline for burning and plowing down old corn stubble and stalks. All such work should be completed not later than April 22.

RABIES QUARANTINES ARE ESTABLISHED IN 17 MUNICIPALITIES

A NUMBER of prosecutions against dog owners who have violated rabies quarantine regulations have been brought by local and State dog law enforcement officers, Dr. C. P. Bishop, director of the Bureau of Animal Industry reports.

"Just because a dog has a 1944 license attached to his collar does not mean that he can run at large in a quarantined area," Dr. Bishop declared. "When out on the streets, all dogs in these areas must be on leash or under control of a responsible person. Police officers and dog law enforcement agents are required to pick up such unaccompanied dogs. Persistent violators are being prosecuted."

Between January 1 and April 1, rabies quarantines were established by seventeen municipalities in Allegheny, Butler, Erie, Fayette, Greene and Westmoreland Counties. Three-fourths of the more than 200 positive cases of rabies found prior to the end of March occurred in five counties: Philadelphia, 35; Allegheny, 56; Westmoreland, 27; Erie, 21 and Crawford, 11.

Splendid cooperation by local health and police officers in counties where rabies outbreaks have been most numerous has prevented a more serious spread of the disease and brought the general situation well under control.

A total of 5,822 stray and uncontrolled dogs have been killed since January 1. This is approximately the same number killed in the first three months of last year. The number killed in January was 2,157; February, 1,695; and March, 1,970.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS AND EXTENSION AID IN MACHINE REPAIR

REPLACEMENT value of farm machines and tools repaired by farmers who received training in vocational school classes and State College extension demonstrations throughout the State during the past winter was estimated at "close to a million dollars" by Secretary Horst, speaking at a banquet of adult farmers of vocational classes in the vicinity of Kutztown, held recently at the State Teachers College there.

"In addition," he declared, "there will be many extra acres of wartime foodstuffs planted, cultivated and harvested this Summer because of this direct aid to the farmer's most serious problem today, the shortage of farm labor. This repair program is a great credit to the farmers, for they are helping themselves to produce more food for war.

"Under normal conditions many of the farm machines that are still running today would have been scrapped and replaced by new machines. But new machines are extremely difficult to get. Repaired and reconditioned machines will save thousands of farm man-hours that otherwise would have been lost."

Although deliveries of new farm machines on tonnage allocations provided by the Federal Government are better than last year, Secretary Horst said that in some instances it will be impossible for farmers to get needed machines for their Spring work. Plows and cultivators are particularly hard to get.

"For this year 80 per cent of the tonnage to be manufactured into new farm machinery is to go to farmers, with the remainder held as government reserve for emergency allocation," he explained. "About 75 per cent of the farm share has been shipped by manufacturers to their dealers, an amount that is far from reaching requirements. Future deliveries are in doubt since the manufacturers face a serious labor shortage."

In the college extension farm machinery repair program more than 25,000 farmers were benefited during the past two years. In the vocational school program in 1943 more than 7,000 farmers in 368 courses repaired more than 11,000 major farm machines, adding about $100,000 to their value. This year there are 450 courses running 20 weeks under direction of the Department of Public Instruction. Repairs made to date have increased values of major machines by at least $225,000, officials of that department report, with replacement values running in proportion.

ICE CREAM AGENTS MAKE INSPECTIONS

AGENTS of the Bureau of Foods and Chemistry in the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture during 1943 made approximately 6,900 inspections and investigations of sanitary conditions in ice cream manufacturing plants and retail establishments, according to G. J. Kuhlman, Acting Director of the Bureau. This was about 260 fewer inspections than in 1942.

A total of 583 inspections in 1943 were on complaints received by the Bureau, a decrease of nearly 400 from the previous year, and an indication that ice cream manufacturing and retail conditions have been improving.

In each of the two years something over 300 samples of ice cream were purchased in routine checking by the Bureau. Also, in each of these two years there were about the same number of violations of the State food laws, mostly with respect to sanitation. In 1942 there were 135 and in 1943 there were 133.

"In general, we find that ice cream manufacturers are making every effort to comply with established State standards, and doing a good job of it," Mr. Kuhlman said.

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FARMERS DISPLAY PIONEER COURAGE SAYS GOV. MARTIN

DESCRIBING as "real pioneer courage" the determination of Pennsylvania farmers to plan increases in grain acreages this year, Governor Edward Martin, addressing the semi-annual meeting of the State Council of Farm Organizations on April 14, declared farmers willingly are taking a chance, "gambling they can get manpower and machinery" so that they may add to the wartime needs for more food and livestock feed. Following are some excerpts from the Governor's address:

State Rights and Subsidies

"We hold great hopes for the future of agriculture in Pennsylvania. This future, however, will have its many problems.

"One of the tasks immediately ahead is a return to State Rights and their maintenance. The milk price problem is one of many instances where the rights and privileges of citizens of a state have been usurped by bureaucratic regulations.

"We must get our agriculture on such a sound footing that governmental subsidies, rules and regulations and their attending evils will no longer be tolerated. Helping you and the Department of Agriculture and State College in ending these abuses, there should be other State departments and agencies working to the same end.

Conservation

"Continued attention to conservation of our land resources is necessary. We must adopt a program of land utilization, particularly for lands owned and controlled by the Commonwealth.

"It might be well to discourage Federal purchases of sub-marginal and forest lands in Pennsylvania, except for such purposes as watershed areas, or other uses having a particular public advantage, and then only in such amounts as can be put under planned improvements, using State appropriated funds. This same principle might also apply to State land purchases.

"Soil conservation must not be neglected in the future. It must, however, be made practical. Our extension courses of State College can demonstrate and teach, but the actual work must be done by the farmers themselves. This insures the independence required to continue agriculture as an independent way of life. Help must be given without red tape and free from bureaucratic control.

"War time conditions and manpower shortage have emphasized the need for a serious study of the problems of food distribution. Increased competition, rationing, scarcity of food items and lack of transportation all demand earnest study by our farmers and farm experts.

Aid Small Farmer

"I feel we will find in the post-war period that the small farmer—the farm family operating less than 50 acres—will require more attention than ever before. Farms and farmers of this type represent the very backbone of our basic agriculture and the greatness of our country. Most of our planning should center on what all of us can do to help the little farmer find the place where he can contribute most and to aid him to do an efficient job.

"We need more people in America who have an independent food supply. We want to keep the farmer independent. When he must depend upon subsidies for a profit we are lost as a people.

"We are in a deepening crisis, in which all we have is at stake. We all know that we are facing bitter fighting. We all know that the fate of our armies depends on the farmer and the worker on the home front.

"The farmer is doing his job by increasing crop production, just as his forefathers held the line at Valley Forge and Gettysburg. Agriculture is the basic industry of America. We have always depended upon it. We are depending on it now. You will have my help in doing your duty."

EGG-FEED RATIO SPREADS AS NEW RECORD IS MADE

WHILE Pennsylvania chickens were laying 50 million more eggs in March than in February to establish another all-time record of 310 million for the month, commercial poultrymen found that the constantly widening gap between prices they received for eggs and the amounts they had to pay for feed also reached record proportions.

According to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service, it took the value of 138 eggs to buy 100 pounds of feed during March, compared with 123 eggs in February and 86 in March of 1943. Laying mash advanced 5 cents a hundred during March to a State average of $3.73, compared with $3.10 a year ago, and scratch feed advanced 3 cents to $3.07, a net increase of 67 cents per hundred pounds over the price a year earlier.

"Flock reductions are inevitable under these circumstances, which undoubtedly mean fewer eggs next Fall and Winter," observers said.

The remarkable record of 310,000,000 eggs produced in March on Pennsylvania farms was achieved despite a 2 per cent reduction in the number of layers since February and the continued increase in the cost of feed. The number of layers at the close of March was 18,482,000, or 386,000 fewer than a month earlier, but 1,364,000 more than March 1943. The monthly number of eggs per layer was increased by 3 from February to March, or 13.8 to 16.8

The new record total of production was 6 per cent over the same month last year.

The March rate of lay per hundred birds of laying age was 57.5 which compares with the highest rate for March of 59.2 eggs in 1938 and 1927. In this State the highest rate of lay per hundred hens and pullets, for all months, is 60.7 eggs reached in April 1942. The lowest rate is 12.6 which occurred in November 1925, the first year of record.

During March commercial poultrymen received an average of 29.5 cents per dozen for eggs, compared with 32.7 in February and 38.4 a year earlier. They received 27.5 cents a pound for live chickens, about the same as a year ago, and half a cent more than in February.

VEGETABLE GROWERS PLAN '44 ACREAGES

APPARENTLY unable to take risks on the shortage of farm labor, Pennsylvania commercial vegetable growers have indicated they will plant no more acreage in cabbage than they grew last year,, relatively little more spinach, a few more acres of onions, and harvest no more asparagus, according to a preliminary survey of intentions to plant 1944 truck crops, compiled by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Practically all reports from truck crop areas in Pennsylvania indicate that the labor problem is the limiting factor this year in planning commercial vegetable production. Unless weather conditions are more favorable this year than last it is quite possible that another onion shortage may occur in 1944-45, at least so far as Pennsylvania production is concerned, observers say. Pennsylvania is not a major onion-growing state, however, and depends largely upon shipments from neighboring onion-producing states.

The larger truck growers last year harvested onions from a total of 390 acres, which was 30 acres more than the 10-year average, 1933-1942. This year they have indicated they will plant 400 acres, an increase of only ten over last year.

There is no change reported in the asparagus acreage this year, the estimated 2,350 acres being the same as last, but 80 acres more than the 10-year average.

Estimates for cabbage this year show an increase of 100 acres over last year for the late Summer varieties, but a decrease of the same amount for the early Fall or Danish type. The 4,200 acres planned for the late Summer crop is nearly 800 acres under the 10-year average, and the 2,200 acres for Danish is 550 acres below the 10-year average.

Growers plan to harvest 2,550 acres of spinach this Spring, an increase of 200 acres over 1943, and approximately 1,000 acres more than the 10-year average.

NINTH STRAIGHT MONTH FOR MILK PRODUCTION DROP

PRODUCTION of milk on Pennsylvania farms increased seasonally during the month of March, but still was under the same month of last year, marking the ninth consecutive month that production failed to meet records of the corresponding month a year previous.

Production for March totaled 410 million pounds, 14 per cent above February, but better than 1 per cent below the corresponding month of 1943, according to the latest dairy report of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

February production, on a 29-day leap-year basis, showed a 2 per cent increase over the 28-day February of 1943, but a 1.4 per cent decrease if production for the extra day is not included, Department officials point out.

Availability of dairy feed concentrates has eased somewhat in Pennsylvania, although prices remain high and the quality has not improved, the reporting agency declares. The quality of feed is reflected in the fact that while the amount of grain fed per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents was one-tenth of a pound greater on April 1 than on February 1, production per cow in these herds was half a pound less on April 1 than on the same date a year ago.

Production of milk in Pennsylvania continues to decline even though the January 1944 inventory showed 18,000 more cows and heifers two years old and over, kept for milk on Pennsylvania farms, than a year earlier.

Grains and roughage were nearly exhausted in some localities by April. Winter was hard on pastures in the northern part of the State and, due to cold weather and late frosts, they had barely started. They were "greening up" in the southern counties but cool weather retarded growth in this area also. Moisture was ample.

For the Nation, milk production in March was increased seasonally over February. It was fractionally higher than the March 1943 production due to a 2 per cent increase in the number of cows on farms.

STRAWBERRIES

THE POSSIBILITY of fewer strawberries from Pennsylvania farms this year is seen in a periodical report on truck crop conditions by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Due to unfavorable weather during the past Winter, when there was a deficiency in precipitation for four consecutive months, the condition of strawberry beds in early April was reported to be "below average."

While a good many of the smaller strawberry acreages are being increased this year, some of the larger acreages are being decreased in size on account of the labor situation. Most beds in late March were dormant and mulch covering had not been removed due to cool weather.

Dry weather last fall retarded and weakened some of the younger asparagus beds, but conditions are reported to be "better than average" for this crop.

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FARM VALUES UP 7 PCT. AS MARKET REMAINS MODERATE

GREATEST activity in farm real estate in Pennsylvania this Spring has been in sections where defense workers with families are buying small farms for security after the war, according to a recent survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

However, even this market is reported as not overly large, since all activities in farm real estate are said to be "moderate" and varying little from a year ago.

There is a steady upward trend in Pennsylvania farm values, as indicated in a 7 per cent rise in the index of estimated value per acre for the year. Based on an acre value of 100 per cent for the years 1912-14, the 1943 index was 104 per cent and this Spring is estimated at 111, the highest since 1925. It compares with 140 per cent in 1920 when farm values were at an extremely high level following World War I.

On the whole, most farm buying this Spring has been by farmers. They have sought well-equipped farms, 50 to 100 acres in size, although in the southeastern counties the preference has been for larger acreages. The greatest rises in farm values have been reported from that section of the State.

Quite a few of the purchases have been for cash, but liberal credit is being offered. Sales usually have been made through payment of one-third down and the balance on mortgage, usually provided by Federal or local bank loans.

Very few "distress" or forced sales have been reported this year.

Nationally, the rate of increase for the index of average value per acre for the past year (114 per cent) is about midway between the rates for the years 1917-18 and 1918-19—when values rose from 8 to 10 per cent each year—and the record increase of 21 per cent in 1919-20. The 1944 index shows a rise of 15 per cent during the past year, and 9 per cent during the four-month period ended March 1, 1944.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES CLOSED BY DIVISION

IN ITS EFFORTS to maintain a constant supply of wholesome meat, the meat hygiene division of the Bureau of Animal Industry, during the month of March closed two more slaughter houses due to insanitary conditions found on the premises. This makes a total of five slaughter houses closed by the Bureau since the first of the year.

More than 4,600 dressed meat animal carcasses were examined by agents of the meat hygiene division during the month, and eight were condemned as unfit for human consumption. In addition, 19,439 animals were slaughtered under complete inspection at 26 abattoirs operating under State supervision, and 107 animals were condemned.

The Bureau reports 122,613 swine were vaccinated during 1943 in its efforts to control hog cholera.

SNAP BEAN ACREAGE TO BE ABOUT SAME

LITTLE change in the acreage for the growing of snap beans for canning in Pennsylvania has been indicated to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Results of a recent survey show that growers have indicated they will plant 5,500 acres this year. This is a drop of 100 acres from the amount that was planted to this crop during 1943, or a reduction of 2 per cent.

However, the increased practice of growing snap beans for processing in Pennsylvania is indicated in the vast increase in acreage for this crop above the 10-year average of 2,660 acres on which snap beans were grown for canning between 1933 and 1942.

RABIES QUARANTINES IN 30 COMMUNITIES

PENNSYLVANIA communities in which quarantines against the further spread of rabies have been established now number approximately thirty, most of them in Western counties, according to latest reports to the Bureau of Animal Industry.

As a matter of information to dog owners the Bureau declares that most quarantine actions are enforced with the aid of printed notices which are posted in public places within the quarantined area. A typical notice of this type reads in part as follows:

"It is hereby ordered: that a strict quarantine shall be maintained on all dogs located or found within the limits of the borough for a period of 100 days from the effective day for the enforcement of this quarantine.

"It is further ordered, that each and every dog within the aforesaid limits shall be securely confined or restricted on the premises of the owner or keeper at all times except when being led under proper restraint.

"Any dog—whether licensed or unlicensed and whether vaccinated or unvaccinated—found running at large in violation of the foregoing quarantine order may be killed and the owner or keeper of such dog shall be liable to prosecution."

It is through this and similar practices that local police and health officers have been able to keep the spread of rabies under control, Dr. C. P. Bishop, director of the Bureau, explained.

PROGRESS IN T. B. TESTS IN WARTIME

WAR conditions have not seriously interfered with the extensive program of control of tuberculosis in dairy cattle in Pennsylvania. Although more than 40 Pennsylvania practicing veterinarians have been called into the Armed Forces in the past two years, and the State Bureau of Animal Industry is operating with reduced personnel, the percentage of tuberculosis infection in milk cows during 1943 showed a continuation of the steady decline that has accompanied the bovine tuberculosis eradication program in recent years in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry.

Progress made in the past year has been gratifying. The percentage of infection among cattle has been decreasing until it now ranges from less than one-tenth of 1 per cent to one-half of 1 per cent for the State as a whole.

During 1943 the cattle in nine counties were tuberculin tested and each county requalified as a modified accredited area for three to six years. On account of the reduction of infection as disclosed by the tests, it has been possible to re-accredit 42 counties as modified accredited tuberculosis-free areas for a period of six years. The triennial retest in five counties did not disclose a single reactor.

In order to conserve the service of veterinarians and reduce local transportation needs to a minimum, the Bureau of Animal Industry is conducting Bang disease and tuberculosis tests simultaneously within the counties where elimination activities are under way.

MANY BANG REPORTS

TESTS conducted in Bang disease eradication work through the Bureau of Animal Industry, during March showed an increase of approximately 1,000 in the number of cattle found to be infected, compared with February.

Reports were received on more than 65,000 cattle comprising close to 5,000 herds. The percentage of herds infected was 17.6 compared with 16.3 per cent in February. The percentage of cattle infected was 3.5 for March compared with 2.7 for February.

LACK OF ORDERS TO FORCE HATCHERIES TO CLOSE EARLIER

PENNSYLVANIA commercial baby chick hatcheries are expected to stop production from four to six weeks earlier this year than last, due to decreased demands for chicks by farmers, poultrymen and backyard flock owners, E. J. Lawless, Jr., in charge of poultry and egg division, Bureau of Markets, reported recently.

"The poultry industry in general will be benefited through the earlier closings," he said, while recalling that last year many hatcheries remained in operation until July 1.

"Buyers of baby chicks have been extremely cautious in their orders for deliveries from hatcheries because of the oversupply of eggs in recent months, and the low prices received in comparison to mounting feed and labor costs."

At the same time the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service gave results of a special national survey on hatchery production covering the period from April 1 to 15, designed to obtain timely information on the trend in the demand for chicks since the end of March. A considerable decrease in hatchings was indicated for the remainder of the hatching season, which, for the country as a whole, will see hatcherymen in general closing down earlier than last year, if reported intentions are carried out.

National output of hatchery chicks during April and May is expected to be only two-thirds of the output for the same months last year.

For the first two weeks of April hatchery production in the Middle Atlantic states dropped 11 per cent in the number of eggs set and 2 per cent in the number of chicks hatched. Pennsylvania conditions were reported to be typical of that area. For the country as a whole 13 per cent fewer eggs were set and 4 per cent fewer chicks hatched in that period.

ACREAGE OF SWEET CORN IS ANNOUNCED

PENNSYLVANIA farmers and commercial vegetable growers who have been accustomed to growing large acreages of sweet corn for canning will not reduce the total area which they plan to devote to this crop in 1944.

According to information released by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service, a total of 17,400 acres will be devoted this year exclusively to the growing of sweet corn for processing. This is the same amount that was planted to sweet corn last year but is nearly twice the average number of acres grown for the 10-year period, 1933-42.

The increase is due to the establishment of new processing plants during the 10-year period and expansions to many existing plants to take care of increased consumer demands for canned sweet corn. In New York State the intended acreage for sweet corn this year is 12 per cent above 1943.

FOOD AGENTS BUSY

NEARLY 12,000 inspections and investigations of foods and feeds were made during the first three months of this year by agents of the Bureau of Foods and Chemistry.

In the course of their activities to maintain a supply of wholesome foods for consumers in this State, agents purchased a total of 662 samples of foods to be tested and examined for violations of the Pennsylvania Food Laws. In the same period nine cold storage inspections were completed and a total of 113 general food investigations were made following receipt of complaints from consumers and others.

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RE-OPEN OFFICIAL EGG LAYING TEST ON OCTOBER FIRST

ON THE basis of a survey among leading poultry breeders the Department of Agriculture recently announced it would re-open the Pennsylvania Official Egg Laying Test on October 1 for the usual period of 51 weeks. The test, after running for twelve consecutive years, was not operated for the current 1943-44 year due to necessary repairs and complete renovation of the plant, located at Harrisburg, R. D. 2.

According to E. J. Lawless, Jr., head of the division of eggs and poultry, Bureau of Markets, in charge of the egg laying tests, assurance of the entry of approximately 100 pens of laying pullets and hens has been received from breeders of Pennsylvania and other states. Capacity of the testing quarters is 110 pens.

Previous official egg laying tests in Pennsylvania and other states have been a big factor in improving egg production in the United States, Mr. Lawless explained. By means of these tests, breeders who enter birds can determine productivity and carry on their breeding by using birds with the best records. Tests aid the buyer of baby chicks as they point out the best source from which flocks can be replenished with good breeding stock.

A committee representing the Pennsylvania State Poultry Association has assisted the Department in arranging for the re-opening of the egg laying test, and many members of the association plan to enter pens in the 1944-45 test. L. B. Mearig, West Leesport, Berks County, is chairman of the Committee, other members being H. Guy Loose, Dauberville, Berks County and R. R. Parks, Altoona.

Mr. Lawless said birds for the coming official test will be received between September 15 and October 1, the day the test starts. A total of 13 pullets comprise a pen. Pens of hens are made up of 13 birds at least one year old, and one male bird.

FARM TRACTORS AID IN DELAYED PLOWING

THE arrival of clear, warm weather the first week in May saw many Pennsylvania farmers plowing late into the night, with headlights blazing on their tractors, in an effort to overcome the handicap of a late, wet Spring that in some sections delayed planting by as much as three weeks. "Hot" tractors were forced through swing shifts—where operators were available—after running all day.

"A day's work on the farm is now more than a sun-up to sun-down daylight stretch," a Department spokesman said. "Most farm operators are not able to call it a day under 14 to 16 hours of hard work as they strive to produce more food for war under the handicaps brought on by the latest spring in many years and the current scarcity of skilled labor, the most serious in the State's history."

Evidence that the war is adding to farm work hours is contained in a recent report of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. It shows that on March 1 of this year farm operators were working an average of 11.9 or practically 12 full hours per day. Before agriculture was called upon to increase production of food for war, on March 1, 1940, farm operators were working an average of 10.9 hours a day, or a full hour less than this year. Hired hands four years ago were putting in 9.7 hours a day, and this year on the same date they were averaging a half hour more, or 10.2 hours.

The intended acreage for tomatoes for canning this year in Pennsylvania is estimated at 35,700, or 19 per cent more than the 30,000 acres planted last year. On this basis the State will rank 6th among all states in acreage for this crop, advancing from 7th last year and 10th in the average for the 10-year period, 1933-42.

AVERAGE FARM WAGE HIGHEST IN HISTORY

PENNSYLVANIA farmers are now paying the highest wages in history for all classes of farm labor, according to information compiled by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

At the same time Department officials estimated, on the basis of 1940 U. S. Census figures and U. S. Department of Agriculture reports on total farm workers in the Middle Atlantic States area, that Pennsylvania on April 1, 1944, had approximately 256,000 workers on farms, including family workers and hired hands. This is a drop of more than 4,200 from the estimated total of a year earlier, and the lowest April 1 employment shown on available records of the past ten years.

Compared with farm wage averages for April 1, 1940, about a year and a half before Pearl Harbor, competition with war industries has forced Pennsylvania farmers to increase wage payments from 86 to 106 per cent in the four farm labor classifications. As of April 1 the following average wage rates prevailed in the State:

Wages per month with board, $55.00, an increase of $8.25 over the April 1 average for last year, and a 106 per cent increase over the April 1, 1940 average; wages per month without board, $82.75, an increase of $12 in twelve months and a 95 per cent jump over 1940; wages per day with board, $3.25, an advance of 50 cents over a year ago or a 97 per cent increase in four years; wages per day without board, $4.10, which is 55 cents more than in April of last year, and an increase of 86 per cent since April 1940.

Due to wartime conditions through which farmers have lost thousands of their best workers, the quality of farm workers now is greatly inferior to the farm worker of 1940. More older men, more women, boys and girls are employed on farms than ever before.

The extension service at the Pennsylvania State College has estimated at least 100,000 farm worker placements must be made to handle peak work loads this season.

BEETLE QUARANTINE RULES ARE MODIFIED

CONTROL of Japanese beetles in Pennsylvania has been so effective in recent years that only one small borough—West Leesport, Bucks County—is to be added this year to the heavily infested quarantine area.

Dr. T. L. Guyton, Director of the Bureau of Plant Industry, declared that the heavily infested area is still confined to the southeastern section of the State, roughly east and south of Harrisburg, with the exception of scattered cities and townships.

In this area quarantine regulations have been modified for this year to the extent that the following nursery stocks may be shipped out of the area provided they are entirely free of soil particles:

True bulbs, single dahlia tubers or small root divisions, orchid plants when grown exclusively in Osmunda fiber, trailing arbutus, moss and club-moss, ground pine or running pine, aquatic plants, sweetpotato draws, soil-free plant cuttings without roots, and soilfree rooted cuttings without root systems heavy enough to conceal larvae of the Jap beetle. Orchids are the only cut flowers that are exempted from quarantine regulations.

Outside of the heavily infested area, the entire State is classified as a regulated area with the exception of most townships in Erie, Crawford and Mercer Counties. Regulated areas in these counties include Erie City, Wayne and Concord Townships in Erie County; Meadville City, Sparta, Rome and Oil Creek Townships in Crawford County; and all townships in the southern half of Mercer County.

In the regulated areas nursery stock, soil, manure or composts cannot be moved except through proper certification of State or Federal inspectors. It is not permissible to move cut flowers that have not been processed, or made up into bouquets.

In the heavily infested areas shipments of fruits and vegetables via refrigerator cars or motor trucks may not be made between June 15 and October 15 without certification. These dates also apply to cut flowers. Shipments of nursery stock, soils, etc., may not be made at any time of the year without certification.

URGES APPRECIATION OF SERVICES BY BOYS ON THE FARM FRONT

PUBLIC appreciation and recognition of the wartime position of several hundred thousand American farm boys who are remaining on the farm to help provide food for fighting men, when many of them "would rather be on the firing line," was urged recently by Secretary Horst, addressing members of the Allentown Industrial Club and their neighborhood farmer guests.

"These red-blooded, true American boys are making a far greater personal sacrifice than the public realizes," he declared. "A military axiom is that in a short war the military is of first importance, transportation second, and food third. In a long war food ranks first, then transportation, then the military.

"These boys of draft age, scattered on farms from coast to coast, deferred under the Tydings amendment to the Selective Service act, are making a mighty effort to provide food for war. They are doing a great job. Many of them are working 12 to 16 hours a day. Their presence on the farm is a necessity for maximum production of food.

"But occasionally we hear talk of men and boys deliberately 'hiding out' on farms purposely to evade the draft. Undoubtedly there are some, but agriculture holds no brief for such individuals. They should be sifted out and inducted immediately.

"Local draft boards have been doing a conscientious job in carrying out the provisions of the Tydings amendment which requires deferment of bona fide farm workers until a satisfactory replacement can be obtained. Lately, the boards, as well as farmers and farm youth, have been confused with multiple directives from Washington. I have no doubt but that the boards will continue to do a good job with respect to the food production requirements of their communities.

"Farm boys do not fear to fight. Some of our outstanding heroes of World War II are direct from farms. The armed forces need and will continue to draw upon this source. Many of these boys really want to serve, but because of their skill as farm workers we and they know that most of them are making a far greater contribution to the winning of the war by staying on the farm.

"I make no appeal for blanket deferment of farm boys. Each case must be determined on its merits and need. But I do appeal to the public to appreciate fully the position of the real farm boy who is sacrificing the glamor and glory that we attach to the services and their uniforms, and continually runs the risk of uncalled-for-criticism because he is not in uniform."

The Secretary closed with a suggestion that some form of suitable recognition be provided for young farm workers of draft age by which they could readily be identified as doing their full share for the war effort. This might take the form of a special insignia such as a lapel button or arm band.

"In this way deserving credit could be acknowledged, and the morale of these boys would be bolstered to a high degree," he declared.

Demand for young turkeys has been strong this Spring. Early poults moved quickly from hatcheries.

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NEARLY HALF BILLION FARM INCOME RANKS PENNSYLVANIA 14th

INCREASED numbers of livestock and poultry on Pennsylvania farms last year were instrumental in the attainment of a new all-time record of close to half a billion dollars cash income from crops and from livestock and livestock products, according to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Cash income from crops in 1943 has been estimated at $120,709,000. Farm marketings of livestock and livestock products netted Pennsylvania farmers $352,243,000. The combined total of $472,952,000 compares with $391,173,000 for 1942, an increase of $81,779,000, or 21 per cent. Total cash income for the year 1941 was $311,278,000.

The amount of farm cash income for 1943 was sufficient to rank Pennsylvania as 14th among all states in the value of its crops, livestock and livestock products. This is the same rank held by Pennsylvania in 1942.

Adding Federal Government payments made to farmers, such as subsidies for milk and incentive payments to increase crop acreages, estimated at $10,472,000, the cash income from farm marketings in Pennsylvania last year totaled $483,424,000. The total of Government payments compares with $6,570,000 in 1942 and $6,240,000 in 1941.

LOOK FOR BIG YEAR FOR CANNING CROPS

GREATLY increased production of fruit and vegetables for commercial canning in Pennsylvania for this year over last is seen by D. M. James, in charge of the fruit and vegetable division of the Bureau of Markets.

Requests for inspectors for the grading of fruits and vegetables to be processed for the Armed Forces, lend-lease and civilian supplies are coming daily to the Bureau in increasing numbers. To meet the emergency, particularly in an expected heavy production for peas and tomatoes, the Bureau is obtaining the services of a number of high school teachers, a practice that was inaugurated with success last year.

In his report to Secretary Horst on the canning crop grading service for last year, Mr. James said processors of canning crops purchased 297,095,495 pounds of fruits and vegetables on the basis of official grades under Federal-State inspection. This was 50 million pounds less than the 1942 inspected volume, principally because of the short crops of fruit that resulted from unfavorable weather conditions last year.

"The increase in requests for inspections is a direct reflection of the great expansion of canning plants and facilities in Pennsylvania in recent years," Mr. James declared. "Canneries have come closer to the grower, and more farmers this year will grow canning crops than ever before. Ten years ago the cannery crops inspected in Pennsylvania totaled slightly less than 75,000,000 pounds. Five years later, in 1939, inspected crops totaled more than a quarter-million pounds, and the record total of nearly 354,000,000 pounds came in 1942, an excellent year for fruit and vegetable production."

Because of the late Spring the crop of peas intended for canning may not be up to last year's pack, Mr. James added. Some growers have been able to plant only 60 to 80 per cent of their intended acreages, but since there are more growers this year than last, there are chances that the reduction in the total crop will not be excessively large.

Pennsylvania commercial vegetable growers report this the "latest Spring in 40 years," the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service declared in a summary of truck crop conditions covering the latter half of April.

Continued cool weather and excessive rainfall further retarded growth and planting of early vegetable crops. Most all crops were two to three weeks later than usual.

2 AIRPLANES IN WAR AGAINST GYPSY MOTH

AIRPLANE spraying and dusting for the control and eradication of the destructive gypsy moth in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties started this week under supervision of the State and Federal Departments of Agriculture.

With the use of two bi-planes it is hoped that 2,600 acres of forest land in the heavily infested area can be covered between May 15 and June 15. Within the same period about seven ground crews plan to cover 900 acres and spray the trees and shrubbery on nearly 1,000 properties in eight cities and towns within the infested area.

Gypsy moth infestation in Pennsylvania has been kept within a limited area through annual dusting and spray operations with effective insecticides for the past 12 years. An autogyro was used in dusting about 1,300 acres of forest lands last year. Bi-planes are being used this year because they can carry heavier loads. One plane is equipped for spraying, the other for dusting.

The towns and the number of properties to be sprayed this year in each include: Olyphant 22; Dupont 524; Exeter 59; Forty Fort 41; Scranton City 69; West Pittston 148; West Wyoming 30; and Wyoming Boro 109. Last year more than 300 town properties and 500 acres were sprayed by ground crews.

Permission of property owners has been obtained in each case for spraying applications in the control program. When spraying is done in towns the insecticide used is cryolite which is not dangerous to animals. Lead arsenate is used in forest areas. The spraying is done without any expense to the property owner and is carried on in compliance with the Pennsylvania Plant Pest Act. Each property owner is given a copy of a notice that tells about the treatment.

"Splendid cooperation on the part of residents, city and borough officials, and the owners of large tracts of land has been unusually fine this year," Dr. Thomas L. Guyton, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry declares.

Dr. Guyton reports that the gypsy moth eggs started to hatch late in the first week in May. The percentage of hatch and survival is reported to be high. If allowed to go undisturbed the insects would completely defoliate large areas of forest land and all trees and shrubs in towns and cities. It has been largely through annual spraying and dusting that the gypsy moth has been greatly reduced in numbers and the area of known infestation reduced. Ten townships were released from quarantine restrictions in the Fall of 1943. The forest land area to be treated this year is in Spring Brook and nearby Townships, northeast of Wilkes-Barre.

GRAIN HOLDINGS

LESS corn, but more oats and barley was being held on April 1 in all off-farm storage positions in Pennsylvania, exclusive of terminal markets, than on the same date last year, the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service reports.

Stocks of wheat in interior mills, elevators and warehouses on April 1 were 40,000 bushels less than a year earlier, a total that does not include holdings on farms, terminal stocks, or merchant mills. Holdings amounted to 560,000 bushels this year compared with 600,000 bushels on the same date in 1943, and the average of 692,000 bushels in the 7-year period, 1935-1942.

Stocks of shelled and ear corn on April 1 totaled 625,000 bushels, or 175,000 less than a year earlier. Oats holdings amounted to 770,000 bushels, or 60,000 more than on the same date last year. Barley totaled 235,000 bushels, an increase of 105,000 over holdings 12 months earlier.

Supplies of wheat in all positions in the United States on April 1 were about 40 per cent smaller than the 900 million bushels on April 1, 1943. Corn was 22 per cent lower, and oats down 17 per cent.

FARMER'S DOLLAR PURCHASING POWER DROPS 2c IN MONTH

SHIFTING of prices received by Pennsylvania farmers for their products during the month ended April 15 resulted in a decline of two cents in the purchasing power of the farmer's dollar which then was worth $1.17, based on the dollar being worth 100 cents during the period 1909-1914. The farmer's dollar was worth $1.21 on this basis in January, the same as April 15, 1943.

The index of prices paid to Pennsylvania farmers for principal agricultural products declined four points to 199 per cent of 1909-14 prices during the month ended April 15, according to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Advances of two points in grains and 12 points in fruits were more than offset by declines of 26 points in vegetables to 191 per cent, chiefly through a drop of 20 cents a bushel for potatoes, a 2-point drop in dairy products to 217 and a decline of 8 points in poultry products, to 133. Meat animals remained unchanged at 193 per cent of the 1909-14 base.

Where farmers had any grains for sale during the four-week period, advances of from one to four cents a bushel were reported. Price comparisons follow:

	Apr. 15 1943	Mar. 15 1944	Apr. 15 1944
Wheat, Bu.	$ 1.45	$ 1.65	$ 1.66
Corn, Bu.	1.07	1.42	1.44
Oats, Bu.	.69	.95	.98
Barley, Bu.	.87	1.27	1.31
Rye, Bu.	.90	1.23	1.27
Buckwheat, Bu.	.94	1.30	1.33
Potatoes, Bu.	2.20	1.65	1.45
Hay, Ton	14.70	18.10	18.40
Apples, Bu.	1.80	3.20	3.30
Hogs, Cwt.	15.40	13.40	13.20
Beef cattle, Cwt.	13.80	12.60	12.80
Veal calves, Cwt.	16.50	14.90	14.60
Sheep, Cwt.	7.00	5.80	5.80
Lambs, Cwt.	14.10	13.40	13.50
Milk cows, Head	149.00	154.00	155.00
Horses, Head	144.00	138.00	138.00
Mules, Head	148.00	153.00	153.00
Chickens, Lb.	.301	.271	.277
Turkeys, Lb.	.369	.375	.380
Milk, whsl., Cwt.	3.25	3.60	3.55
Milk, retail, Qt.	.141	.143	.143
Butter, Lb.	.52	.49	.48
Butterfat, Lb.	.52	.49	.49
Eggs, Doz.	.359	.312	.284
Wool, Lb.	.48	.42	.42

Nationally, prices received by farmers failed to rise during the month and for the first time since December 1939 were below the level of the corresponding month a year earlier.

INSPECT 600 CARS SURPLUS POTATOES

APPROXIMATELY 2,500,000 bushels of Pennsylvania potatoes bought from farmers by the Federal Government for processing into livestock feed or alcohol for synthetic rubber have been inspected to date by the Bureau of Markets.

At least another million bushels will be inspected for grade, making a total of approximately 600 carloads, before the surplus stock of potatoes from the 19-million-bushel Pennsylvania 1943 crop is disposed of completely, according to D. M. James, in charge of the fruit and vegetable division of the Bureau. By mid-May York, Lancaster and Chester Counties were about "cleaned up" and inspections were heavy in the northern counties. Lancaster County shipments may reach 150 carloads, according to estimates.

A fair quantity of the surplus potatoes is being dehydrated at converted cider mills in Chambersburg and Peach Glen, Adams County. Unpeeled potatoes are run through the cider presses and the residue, when dried, is being sold as livestock feed. Those not processed in the State are being shipped to Ohio, New Jersey, and sugar beet processing plants in the mid-west.

Since farmers are paid through the price support program on the basis of grade, the inspectional service is necessary. Mr. James reports that some cars show a high percentage of U. S. No. 1 quality, but that due to the lateness of the storage period, other cars show most stock that is off condition, and unsuited for commercial sale.

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ONLY 21 PCT. SPRING PLANTING COMPLETED IN STATE BY MAY 1

A FORECAST of winter wheat production in Pennsylvania this year is for a crop that might exceed that of last year by more than four million bushels, according to the Federal-State general crop report as of May 1.

Winter grains recovered from the effects of a rather severe Winter better than expected and showed marked improvement over April 1 in all parts of the State. Weather the latter part of April and the first week in May was particularly favorable for wheat, rye and barley.

The report provides the first gauge of the lateness of Spring on Pennsylvania farms this year. Low temperatures and excessive rains for the second year in succession retarded field work to such extent that only 38 per cent of the Spring plowing and 21 per cent of the sowing and planting had been completed by the close of April. These compare with 60 and 34 per cent, respectively, in 1943 and 74 and 50 per cent in 1942, when Spring was quite favorable for farm operations. Planting of oats, potatoes, tomatoes, canning peas, sweet corn, and all truck crops has progressed slowly, with scarcely anything planted in the northern part of the State by May 1.

For the 1944 winter wheat crop, farmers last Fall seeded 955,000 acres, which was 159,000 more than was seeded the year before. It is estimated that 29,000 acres failed to come through the Winter leaving a net of 926,000 acres to be harvested this Summer for grain, or a drop of 3 per cent compared with a 1.9 per cent loss last year.

The wheat crop is in such good condition that it is estimated to yield an average of 19 bushels to the acre, or 2 bushels more than last year. Total production on May 1 was estimated at 17,594,000 bushels compared with 13,277,000 bushels last year and the 10-year average of 18,400,000 bushels, 1933-1942.

Pastures and Hay

Condition of pastures on May 1 was 83 per cent of normal, well ahead of the 76 per cent reported for the same date last year.

Stocks of hay remaining on Pennsylvania farms as of May 1 totaled 410,000 tons, or 19,000 tons less than on the same date a year ago.

Hay holdings then represented 12 per cent of the total 1943 crop. This compares with 13 per cent of the 1942 crop held at the same time last year. Average holdings for the 10-year period 1933 to 1942 were 12.7 per cent of the previous year's crop as of May 1.

The condition of the 1944 hay crop was reported to be much better than the crop a year earlier, and better than the 10-year average for that date.

Rye for Grain

Although Pennsylvania farmers have planted 5,000 fewer acres of rye for harvest as grain this year, growing conditions on May 1 were such that production will be equal to the larger acreage last year. There were indications that this year 43,000 acres intended for harvest will yield an average of 14.5 bushels per acre compared with 13.0 bushels in 1943 and the 10-year average of 14.3 bushels, 1933 to 1942. Total production this year is estimated at 624,000 bushels, the same as last year. This is considerably under the 1,100,000 bushels average production for the 10-year period when an average of 78,000 acres of rye was harvested.

Stand of Oats Thin

Due to lateness of the season, many Pennsylvania farmers were unable to plant oats on schedule and corn and soybeans were being substituted on some farms, according to the Federal-State weather and crop report for the week ended Tuesday, May 16. Stands of oats were reported to be thin. Department observers say this is significant in view of the feed shortage which is expected to become more serious for the coming fall and winter feeding season. Farmers will need all the home-grown feed grains that they can raise this year.

'44 FRUIT PROSPECTS TERMED "BEST EVER"

PROSPECTS for bumper crops of fruits in Pennsylvania this year are declared to be the "best ever" by prominent growers in the Adams-Franklin-York fruit area, according to D. M. James, in charge of the fruit and vegetable division, Bureau of Markets.

Reviewing mid-May conditions in various parts of the State Mr. James declared that the principal drawback had been some "drowning" of blossoms in the heavy rains of May 6-7. However, he believes it had a natural thinning affect and should not be a serious handicap to final production provided such extreme weather conditions as last Summer's drought are not experienced this year.

Weather conditions during the pollenizing period were considered good by the growers except for some early varieties of apples and cherries. "Excellent" is the term Mr. James gave in describing the condition of apples, peaches, sweet and sour cherries. The prospect for exceptional crops for Stayman and York apples appeared to be bright, although in some sections York's were not heavily set with bloom. The outlook for strawberries is not too good because of the cold and wet weather that has prevailed this Spring.

All brambles came through the Winter with very little injury and growth has been most satisfactory this Spring, according to Dr. T. L. Guyton, Director of the Bureau of Plant Industry. This Bureau has completed its Spring inspection of bramble plants for disease control and in all sections the berry bushes are reported to be in excellent condition. Prospects for good crops are indicated in the condition of the larger plantations of raspberries located in York, Juniata, Snyder and Erie Counties.

CHANCES BRIGHT FOR BUMPER HONEY CROP

PROSPECTS for a bumper honey crop this season in Pennsylvania are brighter than for the past two years, says H. B. Kirk, in charge of bee inspection work in the Bureau of Plant Industry. Few colonies were lost during the Winter. Occasional warm spells provided opportunity for the bees to leave their hives for short flight periods, reducing dysentery to a minimum.

There was sufficient rainfall in April to stimulate growth of the flowering trees and plants. A goodly number of early blossoms, combined with good flight weather stimulated brood rearing in the early part of May. These are conditions that are necessary in building up colony strength for the main honey flow in June, Mr. Kirk declared.

"Altogether, the bees at this time are in excellent shape to gather honey, provided good flight weather persists throughout June," he continued. "Bee colonies were in proper condition to pollinate fruit blossoms, and as a result, an excellent set of fruit is in evidence throughout the State."

The Bureau started apiary inspection work the first of May. Under manpower shortage conditions inspectors are difficult to get and it is expected that a number of school teachers will be available for training by the first of June to assist in covering the territory that is scheduled for inspection this year.

Last year bees were out in front of the entire agricultural field by a wide margin with increased crop production over the previous year. Production of 6,256,000 pounds of honey in 1943 compared with only 3,800,000 pounds in 1942. Bees also made a highly important contribution to the war by producing 138,000 pounds of beeswax, more than twice as much as the year before.

DOG LAW QUARANTINE BEING ENFORCED BY 46 PA. COMMUNITIES

SINCE the first of this year 100-day dog quarantines have been established in 46 cities, towns and townships in ten Western Pennsylvania counties, in an effort to control the spread of rabies. In all cases the quarantines have been instituted through local government officials who have been giving the Bureau of Animal Industry excellent cooperation in preventive measures to keep the spread of the disease to a minimum.

In two instances, the original 100-day quarantines have been extended for a like period in Ford City, Armstrong County, where such action was taken April 19, and in New Kensington, Westmoreland County, where the second period started April 24. A majority of the quarantines were established during the month of March. Following is the list to May 10:

Allegheny County: Pitcairn Boro, Ingram Boro, Mt. Lebanon, Jefferson Township, Dravosburg Boro, O'Hara Township, Blawnox Boro, Penn Township, Fox Chapel Boro, West Mifflin Boro, Oakdale Boro, Brentwood Boro, Glassport, Clairton Boro, Crafton Boro, Castle Shannon, Baldwin Township, and Whittiker Boro.

Armstrong County: Ford City.

Butler County: Harmony Boro, Zelienople Boro and Butler City.

Crawford County: Conneaut Lake District.

Erie County: Albion Boro, Cranesville Boro, East Springfield Boro, Erie City, and Corry.

Fayette County: Masontown Boro, Point Marion Boro and Uniontown.

Greene County: Greensboro Boro, Clarksville Boro, Jefferson Boro, Morgan Township, and Monongahela Township.

Lawrence County: New Wilmington Boro and Elport Boro.

Venango County: Pleasantville Boro.

Westmoreland County: New Kensington City, Arnold City, Trafford Boro, Washington Township, Manor Boro, West Newton, and Lower Burrel Township.

PENN'A HENS BREAK APRIL EGG RECORD

ALL PREVIOUS egg production records for the month of April were broken when laying hens and pullets on Pennsylvania farms amassed a total of 312 million eggs, or 23 million more than in the same month last year, according to the Federal-State chicken and egg report for April.

April production of eggs exceeded that of March by two million, even though there was a reduction of 708,000 or almost 4 per cent in the number of laying hens and pullets. The advance is credited to a seasonal increase in the rate of lay per bird, from 16.77 in March to 17.58 in April. Production during the first four months of this year was 8 per cent greater than for the same period in 1943.

Commercial poultrymen reported no change in the price received for eggs in April compared with March, but in prices received by farmers as of April 15 there was a decline of 9 per cent from mid-March and 22 per cent from mid-April a year previous.

Prices received by commercial poultrymen for live chickens were about the same in April as in March. There was no change in the average paid for laying mash at $3.73 per hundred pounds. Scratch feed advanced one cent to $3.08 per hundred, while the eggs required to equal the value of 100 pounds of feed remained at the record high of 138, the same as March.

CERTIFIED SEED

PENNSYLVANIA farmers who wish to enter any potatoes, wheat, oats, winter or spring barley, or soybeans for certification for seed purposes this year are asked to make application for inspection services on a special form provided by the Bureau of Plant Industry. All applications should be filed with the Bureau before June 1.

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Miles Horst, Secretary of Agriculture

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BIG YEAR FOR MAPLE PRODUCTS REPORTED MOST ENCOURAGING

IF THE unusually high production of maple sugar and sirup that was achieved this Spring is taken as an indication of what is to come, Pennsylvania farmers should harvest general crops well in excess of last year.

Nature provided such a great flow of sugar maple sap this Spring that production in terms of sugar was more than 300,000 pounds in excess of 1943, the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service found. Maple products provide the first crop production report each year, and the one for 1944 indicated that only scarcity of labor has prevented a possible new production record for maple products in recent years.

"The Northern Tier counties during early April experienced the heaviest late run of sap since 1936, and some operators were unable to empty the buckets fast enough," said E. L. Gasteiger, Agricultural Statistician. "Quite a number of camps did not operate this year due to scarcity of labor. This was very noticeable in all areas. Some maple tree bushes or groves have not been tapped for the past two or three years.

"The first run of sap was better than average, both as to quality and quantity. Late season runs were light and extended over a somewhat longer period than usual due to weather conditions."

In terms of all sugar, production per tree this year was 3 pounds, the same as in Ohio, and second only to Maryland with 6.13 pounds per tree among the leading maple products states. Pennsylvania production was nearly 1 pound per tree over last year, and half a pound above the ten-year average, 1933-1942.

Sirup from the early Pennsylvania run graded mostly Fancy and U. S. No. 1. Demand has been good and supplies generally abundant. Compared with sirup, the amount of sugar made was relatively lower this year. Some sirup, not marketed because of misunderstanding of O. P. A. ceiling prices, may later be converted into sugar.

Pennsylvania production in terms of sugar this year totaled 1,092,000 pounds, which was 305,000 pounds more than last year, but approximately the same amount below average production from 1933 to 1942. This production was attained despite a reduction of 11,000 trees tapped in 1944 compared with 1943, and nearly 200,000 fewer than the 10-year average of 562,000 trees. The number tapped this year was 364,000.

The fewer trees tapped this year netted 133,000 gallons of sirup, or 38,000 gallons more than 1943 production, another indication of the extensive sap flow this year. The total of 28,000 pounds of sugar is 1,000 more than the 1943 production.

LEGHORNS LEAD

OF THE total chickens raised in Pennsylvania last year, 40 per cent were Leghorn's, according to a recent Federal-State survey. Second rank was taken by New Hampshires with 22 per cent, followed by Plymouth Rocks which constituted 14 per cent of all chickens produced on Pennsylvania farms during 1943. Of the Plymouth Rocks, 7 per cent were White and 6 per cent Barred. Rhode Island Reds comprised 4 per cent of the chickens raised while 12 per cent were cross breeds and 8 per cent mixed breeds.

The Leghorn was the predominant breed of chickens raised on U. S. farms in 1943, making up 33.8 per cent compared with 37 per cent in 1930. Plymouth Rocks were second in importance with 25.6 per cent compared with 17.3 per cent in 1930. Barred Plymouth Rocks comprised 9.5 per cent and White Plymouth Rocks 15.5 per cent of all chickens raised. New Hampshires made up 10.0 per cent, and Rhode Island Reds 5.5 per cent.

ALMOST EXTINCT!

THE agricultural machine age has just about done it again. Almost extinct in Pennsylvania is the clucking, strutting, proud "Mother Hen" with anxious eye and quick temper for those who would harm her brood of baby chicks. In company with Old Dobbin the horse that gradually is giving way to the tractor and truck, Old Biddy the hen is even more rapidly losing her job. She is becoming resigned to replacement by what she might properly regard as an "infernal machine"—the electrically heated and controlled incubator.

For centuries past, Biddy has done a grand job, sitting patiently day after day keeping warm a nest of eggs to hatch her little brood in the good old fashioned way. But the "little black hen" now is far too busy "laying eggs for gentlemen" at war to take time out to raise a family.

Proof of Biddy's near-extinction came recently in a report on chickens raised in Pennsylvania last year, compared with ten years ago. Hatching under hens dropped from 23 per cent in 1934 to a lowly 2 per cent in 1943, a Federal-State report from the State Department of Agriculture declared. Baby chicks and started chicks bought by farmers and poultrymen from commercial hatcheries made up 91 per cent of all chickens raised in Pennsylvania last year, compared with 54 per cent obtained from this source only ten years ago.

It all simmers down to the cold fact that only two of every hundred chickens for the minister's Sunday dinner actually have had a "real mother."

START 'PINCER' DRIVE ON JAPANESE BEETLES

A DOUBLE-EDGED, wartime attack on the destructive Japanese beetle has been launched in Pennsylvania by the Bureau of Plant Industry.

Hundreds of thousands of Jap beetles will be destroyed before they have a chance to get out of the ground, in a two-pronged "pincer movement" carefully plotted by State and Federal entomologists, Dr. Thomas L. Guyton, Bureau director reported.

The first invasion of Jap beetle territory was completed May 24 with the freeing of six colonies of beetle parasites—Korean wasps known as Tiphia—in outpost areas of the more heavily infested sections. Colonies of 400 female Tiphias each were liberated in the outskirts of Camp Hill, Selinsgrove, Sunbury, Williamsport, and Ligonier and Laughlintown in Westmoreland County. Each female will lay about 400 eggs, one by one on a different Jap beetle grub. The Tiphia egg hatches a grub which devours the beetle grub before it has a chance to turn into a beetle and emerge from the ground. This is the first placement of parasite colonies west of Harrisburg. They have been used for nearly 14 years in southeastern counties. This year's supply was hand-picked in Valley Forge Park.

The second invasion maneuver is scheduled for June 15, when agents of the Bureau will start planting small quantities of "milky disease" spore dust at 10-foot intervals in grass lands of heavily infested areas. Milky disease also kills Jap beetle grubs before they can develop into beetles. Spreading the disease is comparable to deliberately starting an epidemic of a bacterial disease among humans and is proving more effective each year. Milky disease is harmless to humans, animals and all insects except Jap beetle grubs.

A limited quantity of milky disease spore dust will be available this year. It will be used where most effective, completing areas in parts of York, Cumberland, Dauphin and Lebanon counties started last year. Initial infestation is to be made in Armstrong and Cambria Counties, and in areas along the Allegheny River.

Pennsylvania farmers this year paid $63 per hundred for turkey poults compared with $53 last year, an increase of 19 per cent.

URGES CAUTION FOR ALL FARM WORKERS TO AVOID ACCIDENTS

PRECAUTION in the avoidance of conditions and practices that frequently lead to accidents on farms and in farm homes is urged by Secretary Horst.

"Farmers are putting forth every effort to produce more food for war," he declared. "They are up against a serious shortage of trained farm labor. Farm operators and hired men alike are working harder, faster, and for more hours a day than ever before. Inexperienced workers must be used to help bridge the gap.

"Even trained workers are tempted to use makeshifts and short cuts in their anxiety to get the work done and still do a good job.

"Carelessness usually goes with unwarranted haste and is the basic cause of too many accidents. Poorly loaded or overloaded hay wagons may upset; a loose nut or faulty adjustment on a tractor or other machine may prove fatal. There are scores of accident possibilities. Due caution will save lives and many lost hours on our farms this year."

Calling attention to the fact that hundreds of town and city high school boys and girls are preparing to begin summer work on farms within the next few weeks, the Secretary urged farm operators to take time to give inexperienced youth instruction in their tasks, emphasizing safety.

"Farm work is really safer than vacation play," he explained, "if the young workers will learn and observe the necessary precautions for the safety of themselves and of others. These young soldiers on the farm front need instruction and training just as do soldiers who go to the fighting front. Experienced farmers are their chief instructors.

"Accidents don't just happen. There is a cause back of every accident. Danger spots should be recognized and removed. Inexperienced boys and girls cannot be expected to recognize every possibility for danger. An hour or two of careful instruction by the farmer may save many hours of extra labor and costly repairs. Farm workers this year above all others, when we are striving for maximum production for war, need to become 'safety conscious.'"

CORN BORER LOSSES MAY EXCEED $5,000,000

POSSIBILITIES of losses estimated between five and six million dollars to the corn crop through damage by the European corn borer face Pennsylvania farmers this year.

New estimates on last year's damage by the corn borer, received from the United States Department of Agriculture, showed the crop loss then was close to $5,000,000 for both field corn and sweet corn. Earlier reports from Washington's national survey placed Pennsylvania losses, for sweet corn only, at more than $1,000,000. No figure was supplied on field corn losses.

It is now reported that field corn losses from borer damage in 1943 are estimated at $3.482,800, and for sweet corn at $1,450,000, making a total of $4.932,800.

Dr. Thomas L. Guyton, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry, following field surveys expressed belief that corn borer damage this year will exceed that of last, and it is reasonable to expect that losses in crop values will also be greater this year. The late Spring hampered many farmers in plowing under old stubble in time to prevent emergence of moths.

First emergence of the 2-generation moths was reported May 19 from Montgomery County. Moths of the single brood borer, prevalent in the higher central and northwestern counties, may not appear until about the first of July. Bucks and Montgomery Counties last year were the most heavily infested counties in the entire United States. The neighboring counties of Delaware, Chester, and Lancaster were not far behind.

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TRAINING SCHOOL FOR INSPECTORS OPENS '44 PEA CANNING SEASON

IN ANTICIPATION of what may prove to be the largest pea canning season ever experienced in Pennsylvania, a 2-day school for training grade inspectors was held June 5 and 6 at canneries on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and in Virginia.

D. M. James, in charge of the fruit and vegetable division of the Bureau of Markets, conducted the school. Enrollees were mostly high school teachers and principals engaged for the Summer months as fruit and vegetable inspectors. In comparison to 7 inspectors engaged last year on the grading of peas for canning the the Bureau this year will have at least 25, about two-thirds of whom are teachers. A number of teachers served last Summer as inspectors.

"Pennsylvania is the pioneer state in the grading of peas grown for canning purposes," Mr. James declared. "Growers engage our inspectors because they find it pays, and the canners officials are assisted in putting out a better product. Growers are encouraged to cut top-grade peas which bring the highest prices."

Pea canning was expected to get under way in Pennsylvania by June 8 and the season may continue into mid-July.

Although planting was late in most sections, the Pennsylvania crop by June 1 looked very good, Mr. James reported. Yields should be high, provided there is no extended period of extremely hot weather during the season. Aphids have been bothersome in some sections but damage to date has not been serious. More farmers than ever before are growing what is expected to be the State's largest acreage of peas for processing.

Last year the Bureau inspected 5,555,000 pounds of canning peas, slightly higher than the 1942 volume, but nearly 1,500,000 pounds under the 1942 record. The 1943 pack graded 67 per cent "Fancy."

Pea canning activities this year will center in the following counties: York, Adams, Lancaster, Lehigh, Lebanon, Columbia, Centre, Mifflin, Union and Bedford.

MAY CHICK ORDERS SHARPLY CURTAILED

EXCEPT for breeder hatchery production, commercial output of baby chicks in Pennsylvania tapered off rapidly during April, the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service announces.

New orders for commercial chicks were very light for May and June and bookings on May 1 were much below a year ago. Orders for deliveries of Leghorn pullets after the first part of May were very few and for heavy breeds sharply curtailed.

A number of hatcheries either destroyed light breed cockerels or disposed of them at very low prices. A few hatcheries closed their season by selling out chicks at prices less than the cost of the eggs. Even reduction in quotations on baby chicks failed to stimulate demand. Observers say that the shortage of feed and labor and the wide margin between feed costs and prices received for eggs have discouraged farmers and poultrymen from maintaining flocks as large as last year.

About 80 per cent of the chicken industry in Pennsylvania is made up of flocks of less than 400. The report says that "it is the slow demand on the part of these small poultrymen which makes hatcherymen pessimistic as to prospective chicken and egg production."

Pennsylvania commercial hatcheries during April set 17,382,000 eggs and hatched 11,294,000 chicks. Both show decreases from April of 1943 when 21,459,000 eggs were set and 13,445,000 chicks were hatched. For the first four months of 1944 hatcherymen set 60,481,000 eggs and hatched 37,467,000 chicks.

YORK AGAIN LEADS IN SWINE NUMBERS

YORK, Lancaster and Berks Counties rank in that order in the number of swine held on farms in all Pennsylvania counties as of January 1 this year, according to Federal-State inventory estimates.

Pennsylvania on that date had a total of 967,000 swine on its farms, with an estimated value of $13,747,000. A year earlier the total number was 806,000 and the value was $17,405,000. The drop of more than $3,650,000 in value for an increased number reflects the decline in prices received by farmers when breeding was expanded in an effort to provide a greater supply of pork to meet war demands, Department observers point out.

Rankings according to numbers for the ten highest counties are: York first with 50,810 swine on January 1; Lancaster second, 49,970; Berks third, 46,610; Franklin fourth, 34,610. Each of these counties held the same ranking for the previous year.

Montgomery County this year advanced from seventh place, replacing Cumberland in fifth place with a total of 32,300 swine. Bucks takes sixth place with 31,900, advancing from eighth place last year. Cumberland County with 30,950 swine is in seventh place. Eighth place goes to Adams County with 29,120, dropping from sixth place last year; Chester is ninth with 24,900 replacing Bedford, and Westmoreland retains tenth place with 24,210. One of the biggest gains this year over last was made by Chester County farmers who had nearly 7,000 more swine, advancing from 15th place last year.

PA. STRAWBERRIES MILLION QUARTS LESS

FEWER shortcakes from Pennsylvania strawberries was the gloomy outlook when a recent report from the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service showed the estimated production for the season that is about to begin will be 42,000 crates under last year—which in itself was a rather poor year for home-grown berries.

This year's strawberry crop of 210,000 crates, as estimated in reports from berry growing areas, will be more than a million quarts under that of last year, and nearly three million quarts below the 1942 crop of 332,000 crates. Dry weather last Fall is mostly to blame, for the plants were unable to come through the Winter in good condition.

Last year strawberries were grown on 3,600 acres, which was 300 less than the year before. The acreage is down to 3,500 this year. The value of the 1943 crop was estimated at $1,764,000 or $490.00 per acre, ranking second in total value to cabbage, which was worth $1,955,000, or approximately $315.00 per acre.

SAVE MORE LAYERS

AS A result of improved management practices, death losses of laying hens and pullets in Pennsylvania poultry flocks were reduced from 16 per cent in 1942 to 14 per cent in 1943, according to a Federal-State report. Nationally, death losses of layers were reduced from 19.4 per cent to 16.2 per cent in the one year period, increasing the poultry meat supply by 89,000,000 pounds live weight, or 3.6 per cent of the poultry meat sold from farms in 1943.

CHICKS COST MORE

PENNSYLVANIA farmers this year paid an average of $14.80 per hundred for all baby chicks from commercial hatcheries, compared with $14.20 in 1943, a Federal-State report shows. The straight run chick price this year was $13.30 per 100 compared with $13.10 last year. For sexed pullets farmers paid an average of $22.30 this year compared with $21.40 last year. The sexed cockerel chick price for 1944 was $6.80 compared with $7.90 last year.

'44 CANNING TOMATO PROSPECTS GOOD; '43 BROKE ALL RECORDS

PRACTICALLY all records in the growing of cannery tomatoes in Pennsylvania were broken last year, and prospects for even better records this year are good, but entirely dependent upon weather conditions, the Bureau of Markets reports.

The volume of tomatoes inspected for grade was approximately 198,000,000 pounds, an increase of 34,000,000 pounds over 1942, according to D. M. James, in charge of the fruit and vegetable division of the Bureau.

Production records for all cannery tomatoes also were broken in 1943, a total of 188,800 tons compared with 162,400 tons for the previous year. A new high record for cash return to the grower was set for last year's crop which brought growers $5,268,000, or nearly $2,000,000 more than the crop of 1942. The price received per ton was the highest of record, $27.90, which compares with $20.60 for the previous year, and the ten-year average of $14.00 for the years 1932 to 1941. The 28,600 acres devoted to the growing of tomatoes for canning last year also was a new record, an increase of 100 over the previous year.

Much of the increase in cash return is due to the fact that more growers are having their canning tomatoes inspected for grade by agents of the Bureau of Markets. Canneries are glad to pay more for tomatoes that meet requirements of the higher grades. Last year the average grades inspected were 71 per cent U. S. No. 1, 28 per cent U. S. No. 2, and 1 per cent culls.

This Year's Prospects

Late shipment of tomato plants from southern states proved a handicap to farmers who planned to devote enlarged acreages this year to the growing of tomatoes for canning. Not only did plants from the south come in late, but they were somewhat smaller than in other years, both conditions due to unfavorable weather, frosts and floods, chiefly in Georgia, where Pennsylvania growers' certified seed is shipped and certified plants come back to Pennsylvania. Much of the product will go to the Armed Forces and for lend-lease.

More than 100 million plants were required to plant the 36,000 acres which Pennsylvania farmers plan to use this year for the growing of tomatoes for processing. This is an increase of 19 per cent over last year's acreage.

The enforced late planting means that much of the crop will mature at about the same time, and probably will cause congestion in both harvesting in the fields and in processing at the canning plants. This is likely to create a labor problem in total movement of the crop.

STATE RANKS FIFTH IN MAPLE PRODUCTS

PENNSYLVANIA ranked fifth this year among the ten northern states in production of maple products, according to the annual report on maple sugar and sirup compiled by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Estimated on the basis of all sugar, greatest production this year was in Vermont, with 8,126,000 pounds, about 800,000 pounds under last year. The reduction was largely due to lack of labor. As in Pennsylvania, sugar bushes on many Vermont farms were not opened this year. New York State produced 6,811,000 pounds, about the same as last year. Ohio ranked third in production with 2,242,000 pounds; Michigan fourth with 1,342,000 pounds; Pennsylvania fifth with 1,092,000 pounds compared with only 787,000 in 1943; Massachusetts sixth with 478,000; New Hampshire seventh with 441,000; Wisconsin eighth with 403,000; Maine ninth with 206,000; and Maryland tenth with 190,000 pounds.

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PRODUCTION COSTS AND PRICE CONTROL CONFUSING FARMERS

MUCH of the State government cooperation built up over the years to aid agriculture and consumers of agricultural products has been nullified in Federal regulations since the war began, Secretary Horst told members of the State Grange Leadership School at the recent annual meeting at the Pennsylvania State College. He talked on "Government in Agriculture."

"Along with price control there must be production control. Plans and schemes that fit mid-Western farm conditions will not always fit Pennsylvania or northeastern states farm conditions," he declared, and continued:

"Before the war our Pennsylvania farmers were paid to keep production down. Then they were promised pay to keep production up. There was an immediate all-out response in production of food for war.

"Today milk and eggs and meat are being produced at a loss. Costs of production are still rising steadily. Liquidations are bound to follow.

"The farmer is confused. He has been asked to increase production. The government has been buying up a portion of what the public couldn't buy.

"Consumers are inclined to blame the farmer when they are asked to pay 50 cents for a quart of strawberries, or proportionately for other scarce or luxury foods, forgetting that they are getting cheap milk, eggs, potatoes and some meats on which the farmer is taking a loss.

"The recent Governors' Conference in Harrisburg and Hershey was in agreement that there is too much regimentation from the Federal Government. There certainly is too much regimentation in agriculture. The farmer wants production and prices on levels of consumer supply and demand, and it will be the task of government and agricultural leaders and groups to make every effort toward an early return to that basis of operation."

SET ALL-TIME RECORD IN EGG INSPECTIONS

ALL previous records for State inspection of eggs for purchase by the Armed Forces, the government and by institutions, were broken for the month of May and for the year ended May 31, E. J. Lawless, Jr., in charge of the poultry and egg division of the Bureau of Markets, reports.

Considered as a possible reflection of increased demands by the Army and Navy for the European invasion, government inspections by the Bureau began mounting in February, dropped off slightly in April, but during May reached an all-time monthly record of 15,016 cases, over 450,000 dozen.

The record total for the year was 49,502 cases of 30 dozen each, or 1,485,060 dozen eggs. In the previous 12-month period State inspectors handled slightly more than 1,000,000 dozen.

May inspections alone were nearly twice the amount for the 12 months ended May 31, 1940, and were in excess of the whole year's inspection work for 1940-41. For the past year, heaviest inspections, aside from the May record, came in February, 4,643 cases; March, 6,762 cases; and April, 4,011 cases.

GOVERNOR PRAISES STATE FARM WORKERS

PENNSYLVANIA farmers were given a verbal pat on the back by Governor Martin in a recent press interview for their contributions to the war effort.

The Governor stressed the need for more victory gardens and fewer strikes, and added that "I saw farmers plowing the other night with headlights on their tractors. They weren't fooling around in night clubs, they were working to win the war.

MORE THAN FIFTY WARTIME COUNTY AND COMMUNITY FAIRS ARE SCHEDULED FOR 1944

OPENING early in August, the 1944 Pennsylvania county and community agricultural fair season will continue into December, with more than fifty expositions scheduled, according to listings compiled by the State Department of Agriculture. The Bedford Fair starts the season August 8 to 12, and the Pittsburgh Baby Beef Show brings it to a close December 11 to 13.

War conditions, chiefly gasoline rationing, have influenced many fair associations against holding their events this year, as they did last year. Out of a total of approximately 120 county and community fair associations in the State, 56 have scheduled fairs for this season compared with 50 scheduled last year, when only 42 actually were conducted. There were 63 fairs held in 1942.

War casualties in the fair field this year include such popular expositions as the Reading Fair, where the Army is using the buildings, the Mansfield and the Clearfield, Fayette, McKean, Somerset, Union and Washington County Fairs. Lycoming County has made no decision to date.

Fairs scheduled thus far for 1944 and the dates for each follow:

FAIR	LOCATION	DATE	SECRETARY
Bedford Fair	Bedford	Aug. 8-12	A. C. Brice
Kutztown Fair Association	Kutztown	Aug. 14-19	Elmer A. F. Kline
Butler Fair and Exposition	Butler	Aug. 15-18	C. M. Miller
Farmers and Merchants Agr. Show	New Bethlehem	Aug. 16-18	Louden Stuart
Mercer Central Fair	Mercer	Aug. 22-25	J. P. Orr
Dayton Agr. and Mech. Ass'n	Dayton	Aug. 22-27	M. E. Garner
Harrold Community Fair	Greensburg	Aug. 24-26	J. H. Silvis, Jr.
P. O. S. of A. Ass'n	Oriental	Aug. 24-26	Wallace Hockenbroch
Grange Encampment and Centre County Fair	Centre Hall	Aug. 26-31	Mrs. Samuel Grove
Jenner Fair	Jennerstown	Aug. 29-Sept. 1	A. O. Lape
Wattsburg Agricultural Society	Wattsburg	Aug. 29-Sept. 2	H. M. Burrows
West End Fair Association	Gilbert	Aug. 30	James F. Shiffer
Indiana County Fair	Indiana	Aug. 30-Sept. 1	Bertha Jones
Green-Dreher Com. Fair	Newfoundland	Aug. 31-Sept. 2	Henry J. Botjer
Pittsburgh Hog Round-up	Pittsburgh	Aug. 31	Albert J. Roth
Ligonier Valley Agr. Fair	Ligonier	Sept. 1-4	George F. Robb
Armstrong County Fair	Ford City	Sept. 1-2-4	Walter H. Bowser
Tioga Valley Fair	Tioga	Sept. 4-8	Carl H. Forrest
Juniata County Agr. Society	Port Royal	Sept. 4-9	J. H. Book
Carbon County Agr. Association	Lehighton	Sept. 4-9	Frank R. Diehl
Linesville Community Fair	Linesville	Sept. 6-8	O. C. Lance
Union Co. West End Fair Ass'n	Laurelton	Sept. 6-9	J. Frank Snyder
Waterford Community Fair	Waterford	Sept. 6-9	Ray J. Salmon
Ulysses Community Fair	Ulysses	Sept. 7-9 (approx.)	Olive Griffin
Sullivan County Agr. Society	Forksville	Sept. 7-9	Roscoe Burgess
Clinton County Fair	Lock Haven	Sept. 7-9	H. Conley Hayes
Clinton County Grange Fair	Mill Hall	Sept. 11-16	J. Rex Haver
York Inter-State Fair	York	Sept. 12-16	John H. Rutter
Harford Agricultural Society	Harford	Sept. 13-15	Elton Robbins
Sparta Community Fair Ass'n	Spartansburg	Sept. 14-16	Telford S. Berkey
West Alexander Agr. Ass'n	West Alexander	Sept. 14-16 (probable)	Paul Rogers
Twin County Fair	Northampton	Sept. 14-16	Robert S. Frable
Green Township Fair	Cookport	Sept. 14-16	J. D. Joiner
Cochranton Community Fair	Cochranton	Sept. 14-16	Charles W. York
Claysburg Com. Farm Products and Flower Show	Claysburg	Sept. 14-16	Warren C. McCarty
Wayne County Fair	Honesdale	Sept. 19-22	R. W. Gammell
Gratz Agr. and Hort. Ass'n	Gratz	Sept. 19-23	Guy R. Klinger
Allentown Fair	Allentown	Sept. 19-23	M. H. Beary
West Lampeter Com. Fair, Inc.	Lampeter	Sept. 20-22 or Sept. 27-29	Wayne B. Rentschler
Beaver Community Fair	Beaver Springs	Sept. 20-23	Kenneth H. Boyer
Fulton Co. Fair Ass'n Inc.	McConnellsburg	Sept. 20-23	Lloyd W. Mellott
Bloomsburg Fair	Bloomsburg	Sept. 25-30	Harry B. Correll
Ephrata Farmers Day Ass'n	Ephrata	Sept. 27-30	Ira E. Fasnacht
Pleasant Valley Grange Fair	Mt. Pleasant	Sept. 27-30	Eugene V. Keefer
Forest County Fair	Tionesta	Sept. 28-30	Mrs. Ida Brady
Stonycreek School and Com. Fair	Shanksville	Sept. 28-30	Edith Geisel.
Lititz Community Show	Lititz	Oct. 5-7	William N. Young
Hollidaysburg Com. Farm Show	Hollidaysburg	Oct. 11-13	Glenn Bressler
Mt. Joy Community Exhibit	Mt. Joy	Oct. 12-14	Mrs. Dorothy Hendrix
Lower Mahanoy Twp. Com. Fair	Dalmatia	Oct. 19-21	Nelson Witmer
Northern Bedford Co. Fair	Yellow Creek	Oct. 19-21	Howard F. Fox
Pittsburgh Lamb Show	Pittsburgh	Oct. 25-26	Albert J. Roth
Oxford Community Fair	Oxford	Oct. 25-27	Seth L. Burt
Nazareth Farm Products Show	Nazareth	Nov. 9-11	Paul R. Seifert
Springfield Farm Show	Pleasant Valley	Nov. 9-11	R. H Giesmann
Pittsburgh Baby Beef Show	Pittsburgh	Dec. 11-13	Albert J. Roth

FARMERS GET LOWER PRICES BUT DOLLAR VALUE STAYS SAME

ALTHOUGH Pennsylvania farmers received lower prices for their principal products in mid-May, they paid as much then for needed supplies as they did in April, according to a Federal-State summary of prices received by farmers.

The decline in prices received during the month ended May 15 for all farm products was 1 point, to 193 per cent of the 1909-1914 average, and compares with a 6-point drop in the preceding month. The May decline was shared equally by the crop and the livestock and livestock products groups.

A drop of 7 points in the vegetable group, due to potatoes declining 5 cents to an average price of $1.40 per bushel, more than offset a gain of 5 points in fruits and 10 points in soybeans.

A decline of 2 points in dairy products overcame a 1 point advance in meat animals. Other sub-groups, including food grain (wheat), feed grain and hay, and poultry and eggs, registered no change from April 15.

Purchasing power or value of the Pennsylvania farmer's dollar was estimated at $1.14 on the basis of the dollar being worth 100 cents for the 1909-1914 period. This was the same as a month earlier, when figured on a new basis of computing the indexes which changed April from $1.17 to $1.14.

The May index of prices paid by farmers for commodities was unchanged from April, being 170 per cent of the 1909-14 average. Comparisons of prices received follow:

	May 15 1943	Apr. 15 1944	May 15 1944
Wheat, Bu.	$ 1.44	$ 1.66	$ 1.66
Corn, Bu.	1.10	1.44	1.46
Oats, Bu.	.71	.98	.98
Barley, Bu.	.87	1.31	1.33
Rye, Bu.	.90	1.27	1.28
Buckwheat, Bu.	1.04	1.33	1.35
Soybeans, Bu.	1.90	1.90	2.00
Potatoes, Bu.	2.85	1.45	1.40
Hay, Ton	14.90	18.40	18.00
Apples, Bu.	2.15	3.30	3.30
Hogs, Cwt.	14.70	13.20	12.90
Beef cattle, Cwt.	13.70	12.80	13.00
Veal calves, Cwt.	16.20	14.60	14.70
Sheep, Cwt.	6.80	5.80	5.70
Lambs, Cwt.	13.60	13.50	13.70
Milk cows, Head	154.00	155.00	158.00
Horses, Head	144.00	138.00	134.00
Mules, Head	148.00	153.00	147.00
Chickens, Lb.	.301	.277	.278
Turkeys, Lb.	.37	.380	.370
Milk, whlse, Cwt.	3.30	3.50	3.45
Milk, retail, Qt.	.141	.143	.143
Butter, Lb.	.51	.48	.48
Butterfat, Lb.	.52	.49	.50
Eggs, Doz.	.362	.284	.284
Wool, Lb.	.49	.42	.42

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Miles Horst, Secretary of Agriculture

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STATE CERTIFICATION OF HYBRID SEED CORN IS NOW AVAILABLE; APPLICATIONS DUE JULY 1

STATE certification of hybrid seed corn in Pennsylvania was provided by Secretary Horst, on June 8th when he signed rules and regulations placing responsibility for inspections and final certification under the Bureau of Plant Industry, effective June 15.

Described as "one of the important advances in Pennsylvania agriculture" in recent years, the addition now makes nine crops eligible for State certification of seed. Others are potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, wheat, winter and spring barley, oats and soybeans.

Growers who seek to have seed certified must have it inspected at regular intervals during the growing season and after harvesting, by agents of the Bureau. Rigid requirements of high germination and freedom from plant disease and weed seeds must be met or the entry will be rejected. Last year Pennsylvania farmers succeeded in having a total of 4,511 acres of grains and vegetables pass certification tests.

July 1 is the deadline for applications for hybrid seed corn certification inspections to be filed by growers with the Bureau of Plant Industry at Harrisburg. After this year the deadline will be June 1.

Hybrid corn was introduced into Pennsylvania over 10 years ago and last year 44 per cent of the State corn acreage was planted with this type. In Lancaster County 90 per cent of the corn is hybrid.

Hybrid corn differs from ordinary open-pollinated corn in that pollination is controlled by the grower of the seed. The pollen of one plant is used to fertilize the silk of another and the corn produced by such crossing is the hybrid seed. It takes five years to produce foundation stock. Ears grown from hybrid seed, although they may be large and perfectly formed, are useless as seed for the next season. The farmer must buy new seed carefully bred and grown by trained plant breeders.

It is only the growers of hybrid seed who wish to have their product certified by the State that are affected by the new regulations. Three kinds of hybrid seed will be considered for certification:

1. Inbred lines, consisting of strains of corn that have been developed as a result of not less than five generations (five years) of controlled self-fertilization by trained plant breeders;

2. Single crosses, the first generation of a cross or hybrid between two inbred lines;

3. Commercial hybrids, which are the ones to be planted for the production of feed for livestock or grain for market. They may consist of single, double, or three-way crosses.

In order to become eligible for certification, all hybrid seed must originate from lines tested and found to be superior by the Agricultural Experiment Station at the Pennsylvania State College, or other experiment stations.

A notice of certification will be granted to those growers whose corn has passed the requirements as set forth in a complete statement of rules and regulations, copies of which are available to hybrid seed growers by addressing the Bureau of Plant Industry, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Harrisburg.

This statement gives details on such topics as number of increases, isolation, stand and minimum size of plot, detasseling, roguing, seed house inspection, test of purity, and provides a table which indicates the minimum number of border rows required for fields of various sizes, when located at different distances from other corn for the production of commercial hybrids.

BEETLE QUARANTINE EFFECTIVE JUNE 26

EFFECTIVE date for the 1944 Japanese beetle quarantine on cut flowers, fruits and vegetables in Pennsylvania is announced as Monday, June 26. On and after that date the State and Federal Departments of Agriculture will apply restrictions on the movement of fruit, vegetable and cut flower shipments from the heavily infested area within the State. No such shipments may be made without proper certification by State or Federal inspectors.

No announcement was made relative to the closing date of the quarantine period, which should come some time in October.

The date of June 26 is eleven days later than the June 15 date that has been observed previously in the Pennsylvania heavily infested area. Emergence and movement of the beetles, from past experience, indicates that the later date is "safe" because beetles by that time have not appeared in quantities above ground.

The regulation applies to unprocessed, fresh, cut flowers when moved in bulk direct from the field or greenhouse where grown, or from a distributor, and to fresh fruits and vegetables of all kinds when shipped by refrigerator car or motor truck only.

The heavily infested area to which quarantine restrictions apply is confined to the southeastern section of the State, roughly east and south of Harrisburg, with the exception of some scattered cities and townships. The area is practically the same as last year. Only one small borough, West Leesport, Berks County, has been added.

Wet weather prevented completion of potato planting in the northern and plateau areas of the State. Where up, the crop is making good growth. In the Lehigh-Northampton area, potatoes were practically all planted by June 1, most fields were being cultivated, and spraying was getting under way.

RABIES STRIKES 508 ANIMALS THIS YEAR

PET cats are subject to rabies infection the same as dogs, and mild-mannered sheep, cows and swine can contract the disease and pass it on by biting other animals and humans, according to Dr. C. P. Bishop, director of the Bureau of Animal Industry.

Rabbits, rats, and at least one fox have been among animals that laboratory tests showed positive reaction to rabies thus far this year in Pennsylvania.

"Rabies can develop in an animal at any time during the year—it is definitely not a 'hot weather disease' alone," Dr. Bishop declared. "Since the first of January we have had more positive cases of rabies (508) than for the same period last year (304). But in the month of May this year there were relatively few more cases (123) than for the same month last year (103).

"By far the greater number of cases reported to the Bureau are of dogs. Compared with last year there has been an increase in the number of cats that have developed rabies or have contracted the disease from being bitten by another animal. So far this year 12 cats whose heads were sent to the laboratory for examination proved positive. For the first five months of 1943 only 2 cats were so affected. The best preventive against spread of rabies is to keep all dogs and cats under control at all times."

From January 1 to May 31, a total of 447 dogs had rabies this year compared with 273 for the same 5-month period last year. Cattle affected so far this year total 31 compared with 13 in the same period last year. Fifteen sheep proved positive in each of the 5-month periods. Rabid hogs were two this year, one last year. No horses have been discovered with rabies so far this year, but there was one last year, and one out of five suspected foxes had the disease.

WHEAT, OATS, FRUIT CROPS MUCH LARGER THIS YEAR THAN 1943

COMPARED with last year's harvests, much larger crops of wheat, oats and fruits are in prospect this year in Pennsylvania, according to the general crop report as of June 1 issued by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. Weather during the month of May was most beneficial to growth of grains and grasses.

June 1 indications pointed to a winter wheat crop that should be 5,700,000 more than last year. An oats crop that should be close to double that of 1943 is in prospect. Barley production will be less than last year but rye will run somewhat better than in 1943.

The June 1 condition of peaches indicated a production of close to 2,000,000 bushels, nearly 780,000 more than the 1943 drought year. The pear crop should be more than twice as large as that of last year. Cherry production is expected to be the largest on record in the State.

A 19 per cent increase in wheat acreage plus an indicated yield of 20.5 bushels per acre, which is 3.5 bushels more than last year, are responsible for the estimated production of 18,983,000 bushels of wheat in 1944. This estimate is slightly more than the 10-year average, 1933-42, of 18,400,000 bushels. Last year's production was 13,277,000 bushels.

Production of oats for this year is estimated at 27,621,000 bushels compared with 14,878,000 bushels last year. Barley is estimated at 2,538,000 bushels, compared with 2,750,000 in 1943. Rye production is indicated at 645,000 bushels compared with 624,000 last year.

The 1944 cherry crop is estimated at 10,300 tons compared with 3,600 tons last year, and the 10-year average of 7,740 tons. Total peach production is estimated at 1,955,000 bushels against 1,176,000 last year and the 10-year average of 1,628,000. Estimates on pears are 451,000 bushels compared with 174,000 bushels in 1943, and 558,000 for the 10-year average.

Fruit Condition Good

The reported condition of the commercial apple crop on June 1 was 73 per cent, or 10 per cent better than at the same time last year. Peaches were 84 per cent compared with only 49 per cent a year earlier, and pears showed 74 per cent condition. Apples appeared best in the central Pennsylvania district, 78 per cent, and lowest in the northwest district, 65 per cent. Peaches showed 90 per cent in the east-central district, and poorest in the north-central and west-central areas where 75 per cent condition prevailed.

For the State as a whole, the June 1 condition of oats was 83 per cent; barley 85 per cent; all tame hay 92 per cent; and pastures 93 per cent. Haying started by mid-May in the southern counties. First alfalfa cuttings were generally very good. Judging from bud development on grapes in the Erie Belt, the crop outlook appears to be very promising. Spraying of fruit trees was difficult and in many instances application of the spray at the proper time was prevented by weather conditions.

VISITING GOVERNORS GET PA. FARM MEALS

WHEN members of the recent Governor's Conference had breakfast in the cafeteria in the Capitol Building at Harrisburg on Memorial Day, the all-Pennsylvania farm products menu included: York County strawberries, Philadelphia scrapple, Somerset maple sirup, Lancaster ham, Tioga scrambled eggs, Chester butter and Dauphin cream.

For luncheon at the Executive Mansion the same day they enjoyed Adams apple juice, Lebanon chicken a la king, Bucks parsley potatoes, Montgomery new green peas, Cumberland vegetable salad, Pennsylvania Dutch shoofly pie and Philadelphia ice cream tarts.

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START REDUCTION OF CHICKEN NUMBERS TO MEET FEED SUPPLIES

IN AN EFFORT to bring chicken numbers more in line with feed supplies on Pennsylvania farms, a number of commercial hatcheries that otherwise would have operated to part of their capacity have closed their plants for the Summer. Many others previously had closed on account of insufficient business, the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service states.

In many sections no corn was available for chicken feed, the hatchery report for May declared. In some localities, eggs were reported selling at 21 to 23 cents a dozen, and farmers were disposing of their hens as opportunity presented. Seasonal culling to remove unprofitable birds has started earlier than usual, the Bureau of Markets reports.

The low price received for eggs and the high price that must be paid for feed has created a situation that is causing farmers greatly to reduce their flocks, observers say. In spite of this, egg production for May was 8 per cent higher than for the same month last year.

Continued production of eggs in excess of current needs has caused serious commercial cold storage space problems. As of June 10 it was said that there were 25 million dozens of eggs for which no cold storage space could be found. In this connection the Federal-State Service suggests: "If every housewife will buy an extra dozen of eggs and store them in her refrigerator she can help meet this emergency storage problem."

During May the commercial hatcheries in the State reported 8,213,000 chicks hatched, a drop of more than 1,800,000 from May 1943. They set 7,941,000 eggs during the month, compared with 11,678,000 a year earlier. From January through May of this year the number of chicks hatched dropped 3,561,000 below the number hatched in the same period of 1943.

Of the chicks reported hatched in Pennsylvania plants during May, two-thirds were heavy breeds, compared with less than one-fifth in January. Hatcheries set two-thirds as many eggs this May as last, hatched four-fifths as many chicks, and had booked on June 1 for later delivery three-fifths as many chicks as on the same date in 1943. The demand for turkey poults is still good.

LIST 10 HIGHEST EGG PRODUCING COUNTIES

BY A margin of approximately 180,000 dozen, York County ranked first among all Pennsylvania counties in the production of eggs during 1943, according to a Federal-State survey.

Egg production on York County farms totaled 20,335,070 dozen for the year, an increase of nearly 2 million dozen over the previous year. This increase was sufficient to move the county out of second place ranking held in 1942 when Lancaster County was first in egg production in the State. Lancaster's second place production for 1943 was 20,154,000 dozen.

Total egg production for the year in Pennsylvania was 217,583,000 dozen valued at $90,950,000. In 1942 production was 195,500,000 dozen valued at $66,665,500.

Bucks County retained its third place in production in 1943 with 11,259,540 dozen. Berks County remained in fourth position with 8,735,040 dozen. Bradford, with 6,619,500 dozen retained its fifth place rank in egg production, and Montgomery County held its sixth place with 6,395,600.

Butler County egg production of 5,643,100 dozen last year was sufficient to displace Chester County in seventh place, Chester going to eighth with 5,557,340, the two counties exchanging rankings from the year before. Adams County held to ninth place with 5,339,720 dozen, and Perry County remained in tenth position with 4,852,580 dozen eggs.

URGES CAUTION WITH MEATS IN SUMMER

WARNING to the public to use extreme caution in eating only those meats that have been properly cured or refrigerated during hot Summer weather was issued recently by Secretary Horst.

"Although few cases of food poisoning from tainted meats have been reported to date," he declared, "the scarcity and uncertainty of cold storage facilities and refrigerated cars in wartime unfortunately are such that all meat consumers and distributors should be on their guard."

Secretary Horst commended butchers and store managers for their efforts thus far in carefully watching for spoiled meats and disposing of them before they reach sales counters.

He cited a recent case reported to the Department's Bureau of Foods and Chemistry where the management of a grocery chain in western Pennsylvania sent nearly two and a half tons of ground beef to rendering plants when it was found that 40 to 60 per cent of it had been freezer-burned and spoiled in transit from the packing house.

Department food inspectors have found some "quick cured" and precooked meats that have been condemned as unfit for human consumption owing to lack of proper refrigeration. It is suggested that purchasers of ground meats endeavor to use them as soon as possible after purchase.

TO PLACE BEETLE TRAPS IN 3 TOWNS

THREE hundred metal traps to snare Japanese beetles on the outer edge of the quarantined area in Pennsylvania will be placed by mid-July in Crawford and Erie Counties by the Bureau of Plant Industry in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Previous trapping in the same area has failed to disclose the presence of the beetles, and the purpose of this year's test is to see if the insects invade the only section of the State that is still free of the pests. Information on the occurrence and status of the beetle will aid in determining what control measures might be advisable, according to Dr. Thomas L. Guyton, director of the Pennsylvania Bureau.

Most of the traps will be placed in yards and gardens of private residences with the permission of the owners and cooperation of the local police. One hundred traps are to be placed in each of the following places: Cambridge Springs, Crawford County; Union City and Girard, Erie County.

MORE FRESH FRUIT FOR CIVILIANS IN '44

PROSPECTS for a considerable increase in Pennsylvania apple inspections over last year are now in sight. While most of the fruits to be processed this year will go to the Armed Forces and for lend-lease, more fresh fruit will get into commercial channels for civilian use this year than last, it was said. The Federal-State report on the June 1 condition indicated that the present set of fruit is above average, but commercial apples are not up to earlier expectations.

The Bureau of Markets is preparing for a big apple inspection program at harvesting time, both for canning and for the fresh market, according to D. M. James, in charge of the fruit and vegetable division. The short crop of apples last year held the cannery inspections to slightly less than 60 million pounds, or less than half the all-time record of more than 132 million pounds inspected in 1942, a good fruit year.

The small size and low quality of the 1943 apple crop used for processing is reflected in the fact that only 47 per cent of the apples inspected were of such size and quality to classify as U. S. No. 1 grade, compared with 73 per cent in 1942.

PENN'A LAYERS SET NEW RECORD FOR 32D CONSECUTIVE MONTH

FOR the 32d consecutive month Pennsylvania laying hens and pullets have established a new record by producing more eggs than in the corresponding month of the previous year.

Not since September of 1941, just a short time before Pearl Harbor, has monthly egg production in Pennsylvania fallen below that of the same month a year earlier, indicating that farmers and their flocks have gone all-out in this phase of food production for war.

Egg production for May of this year, announced by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service, totaled 298 million, which is 22 million or 8 per cent more than May of last year. However, the expected seasonal drop from April to May totaled 14 million eggs, or 4.5 per cent.

Observers pointed to the growing difficulties that Pennsylvania commercial poultrymen and farm flock owners face in producing record numbers of eggs, chiefly the wide margin between the cost of feed and the relatively low prices received by producers for eggs. The report says that, compared with May 1943, commercial poultrymen were receiving 25 per cent less for eggs per dozen but paying 22 per cent more for each hundred pounds of feed.

It now takes the value of 142 eggs, or two less than 12 dozen, to buy 100 pounds of feed, compared with 88 eggs in May of last year. Laying mash has advanced from an average of $3.14 to $3.75 and scratch feed from $2.52 to $3.15 per hundredweight since May 1943. The average price received by commercial poultrymen for eggs in May of this year was 29.1 cents a dozen, whereas last year in the same month the average was 38.8 cents a dozen.

The new all-time May record was achieved by 16,684,000 layers, more than a million fewer than April, but 8 per cent higher than May of last year. Egg production in the State for the first five months of this year exceeded production for the corresponding period last year by 7 per cent.

MAY PRODUCTION OF MILK BELOW MAY '43

PRODUCTION of milk on Pennsylvania farms during the month of May showed a substantial seasonal increase over April, but was less than in the corresponding month of last year, according to the latest Federal-State dairy report.

Total production for May was 487,000,000 pounds of milk. It was 15 per cent above that for April but 2 per cent below production for May of 1943, which in turn was 1 per cent below May of 1942. May was the eleventh consecutive month to show a decrease in milk production in Pennsylvania, month by month, compared with production a year earlier, except for 29-day, leap-year February.

May's production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents was seven-tenths of a pound less on June 1 than on the same date a year ago, but was the same amount above the 10-year June average, 1933-42.

Dairy feed is still relatively scarce in a few localities. This accounts partly for a drop of nearly a pound and a half in the amount of grain concentrates fed to milk cows on June 1 compared with the amount fed on April 1 of this year. Milk cows in reporters' herds were getting 5.7 pounds of grain and concentrates on June 1 while on April 1 they got 7.1 pounds.

Growth of pastures has been luxuriant, and they are providing an abundance of feed in all sections of the State. This accounts for part of the reduction in grain feeding, observers say.

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STATE FARMERS WIN TEN HIGH RANKINGS IN 1943 ACHIEVEMENTS

IN THE production, during 1943, and in the number and value of livestock and poultry in inventories of January 1 of this year, Pennsylvania farmers attained ten placements among the ten highest raking states in the Nation, according to a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting service in the State Department of Agriculture.

Importance of Pennsylvania agriculture in the production of food for war is brought out in the report which shows that the Keystone State now holds the following rankings:

Third in the value of chickens on January 1, slightly under $35,000,000, retaining the 1943 rank;

Sixth in the number of chickens raised on farms last year, 40,961,000, excluding commercial broilers; advanced from eighth in 1942, edging out Nebraska and Ohio;

Seventh in the number of eggs produced in the year 1943, totaling 2,611-000,000, dropping from a tie for sixth with Illinois;

Seventh in the number of chickens inventoried January 1, totaling 24,-979,000; held same rank last year;

Tenth in the number of turkeys raised during last year, totaling 1,-971,000, replacing Oklahoma which held that rank in 1942;

Ninth in the value of turkeys on farms January 1, $1,085,000, moving up from tenth last year, replacing Iowa;

Ninth in milk production for 1943, a total of 4,863,000,000 pounds, retaining the 1942 rank;

Tenth in the number of milk cows and heifers two years or older inventoried January 1, totaling 924,000, retaining rank of previous year;

Sixth in the value of milk cows and heifers two years or older, as of January 1, $131,208,000, holding the same rank as a year earlier;

Ninth in the value of horses and colts on farms as of January 1, $28,041,000, changing places with Nebraska which is now tenth.

"It is encouraging to note that in values Pennsylvania ranks higher than in numbers for chickens, turkeys, dairy cows, horses and colts," Secretary Horst pointed out. "This indicates that our farmers are favored by nearness to good urban markets, and that they endeavor to produce quality livestock and poultry."

SOUR CHERRY PICKING SEASON UNDER WAY

PICKING of one of the largest sour cherry crops ever grown in Pennsylvania, estimated at 7,700 tons, is well under way this week and will continue through mid-July, according to D. M. James, in charge of the vegetable and fruit division, Bureau of Markets.

Many high school boys and girls have been placed in the cherry growing areas by the Pennsylvania State College Agricultural Extension Service. Through their efforts growers hope there will be no great losses due to inability to harvest the crop.

Extra inspectors have been placed by the Bureau at the canning plants to grade cherries for processing. It is estimated that 60 to 70 per cent of the cherries to be frozen or canned will go to the Armed Forces and lend-lease.

More fresh cherries are likely to be available for civilian use this Summer than last, Mr. James believes. Heavy movement of the crop is now on in Adams County, where the most extensive pickings are being made, and in Franklin, York, and Cumberland Counties. In Erie County the cherry prospects were reduced somewhat through recent storm damage. Erie and Adams are the State's leading cherry counties.

Between 8 and 10 million pounds of cherries may be inspected for processing this season, compared with 2,102,000 pounds last year and 8,738,-000 in 1942.

A THIRD OF STATE'S DOGS NOT LICENSED

NEARLY six months after the deadline date of January 15, more than three hundred out of every thousand dogs in Pennsylvania are still without license tags, the dog law enforcement division of the Bureau of Animal Industry reports.

Meanwhile, stray and uncontrolled dogs continue to raid farm livestock and poultry, killing and injuring animals and chickens at a rate which sent claims for damages during May to a total of 100 on which the State paid $2,563 to cover losses to farmers, according to Dr. C. P. Bishop, director of the Bureau. Last year dogs killed more than 15,000 head of livestock, poultry and domestic game, and indemnities totaled nearly $37,000.

"Our agents in the field have been instructed to redouble their efforts in locating all unlicensed dogs, to warn and prosecute owners where necessary, and to kill all stray and uncontrolled dogs," Dr. Bishop declared. "It is just as necessary to license dogs as it is to license automobiles. Licenses can be obtained from county treasurers. Dog owners have only themselves to blame if they are prosecuted for violation of the dog law.

"During May 3,452 stray and uncontrolled dogs were killed by local police officers and our agents. More than 25,000 were killed in 1942. Last month a total of 104 dogs, 5 cats and 14 cattle developed rabies, and more than 200 persons and 850 animals were bitten or exposed. A license will not prevent a dog from killing livestock or biting people, but a license, together with control of the dog at all times, is a big measure of protection for the owner."

The following series of cautions to dog owners is issued by the Bureau:

Don't think because your dog is a house dog, or you live in an apartment, that it does not require a license.

Don't take a chance on paying for damage caused by your dog; it is your personal property and you are responsible for any damage it may do.

Don't take a chance with your dog coming in contact with rabid animals; keep it under control at all times.

Don't be a thoughtless neighbor by permitting your dog to run uncontrolled to damage Victory gardens, lawns, flower beds and otherwise becoming a nuisance.

NEED LICENSES

APPROXIMATELY 200 Pennsylvania livestock dealers have not yet renewed their licenses for the year 1944 and are operating illegally, Dr. C. P. Bishop, director of the Bureau of Animal Industry, reports. To June 1 only 1,288 of approximately 1,500 dealers had taken out licenses. The remainder have failed to act on renewal notices from the Bureau and are subject to prosecution if they continue in business without a license.

GOATS HEALTHY

MILKING goats in Pennsylvania are "healthy as pine knots." They are tested regularly by agents of the tuberculosis eradication division of the Bureau of Animal Industry, and month after month a "zero" is recorded under the heading of reactors, indicating that for some time no goats afflicted with the disease have been found in the State. During the month of May the division made nearly 63,000 tuberculin tests of cattle and 67 of goats. There were 540 cattle and no goat reactors.

Two-thirds of the chicks ordered by farmers from commercial hatcheries during May were for the heavier breeds.

SPRING PIGS DOWN AS FARMERS PLAN FALL REDUCTIONS

SHOWING only a 5 per cent drop from last year, the Spring pig crop of 1944 is estimated to total 570,000 pigs saved on Pennsylvania farms. This compares with a national decline of 24 per cent, according to the annual June pig crop report of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Shortage of feed is the primary reason for farmers reducing the Spring pig numbers, observers say. There will be a more drastic reduction in Pennsylvania in the number of Fall-farrowed pigs, since farmers have reported intentions to breed 30 per cent fewer sows for the Fall pig crop.

For farrowings between June 1 and December 1 only 80,000 sows are being bred on Pennsylvania farms, compared with 115,000 last year. For the Spring pig crop 85,000 sows farrowed, compared with 98,000 in 1943, a 13 per cent drop, but 35 per cent more than the average for the 10-year period, 1933 to 1942.

Larger litters, or more pigs saved per litter, were noted this year among Spring pigs. Litters averaged 6.7 pigs saved against 6.1 last year.

Last year's all-time record Spring crop of 598,000 pigs saved was 52 per cent above the 10-year average. The fact that the drop this year was only 5 per cent indicates that Pennsylvania farms will continue well above the average of pre-war years, but will be cut back severely next Winter when a further shortage of feed grains and concentrates is expected, a Department official said.

Nationally, hog production is declining sharply, the Federal-State report declares. The 1944 Spring pig crop of approximately 56 million head is about 18 million below that of 1943. The Fall pig crop is expected to decrease 33 per cent from last year. The total 1944 crop, Spring and Fall combined, is estimated to be 28 per cent below 1943, 16 per cent below 1942, but larger than any other year on record. The number of hogs over 6 months old on June 1, 1944 was about 5 per cent smaller than a year earlier, but much larger than any other year.

FRESH EGG DEMAND IS POST-WAR TREND

HOUSEWIFE demand for fresh "dated" eggs, made available through daily delivery of quality produce, has proved highly successful in Pennsylvania and is held to be a concrete example of marketing trends for farm products in the post-war period.

Consumers are so pleased with direct farm-to-store daily deliveries of quality eggs that retailers are reported by the Department's Bureau of Markets to be making arrangements for similar service for sweet corn, dressed poultry, and various fruits and vegetables during the coming Summer months.

According to E. J. Lawless, Jr., in charge of the eggs and poultry division of the Bureau, the Philadelphia chain store organization that initiated the fresh egg service last December has increased its egg sales by 65 per cent in the first six months compared with the same period a year earlier. From December 1942 through May 1943 the stores of the chain sold slightly more than 318,000 dozens of eggs. Demand for daily delivered produce in the past six months sent sales to 525,545 dozen, an increase of more than 207,000 dozen.

The fresh eggs are supplied by farmer cooperatives at Doylestown, Coatesville and Centre Point, Montgomery County. They are candled, graded, packed in cartons and delivered each morning by truck to the stores. Self-service refrigerated display cases usually are emptied by evening at prices under ceiling.

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Miles Horst, Secretary of Agriculture

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QUICK ACTION GIVES SUPPLY OF MILKY DISEASE FOR STATE

WITH the use of a deadly "milky disease" germ that will harm no man, animal, plant or insect except Japanese beetle and a few other undesirable grubs under ground, the second phase of the 1944 battle on the invading enemy insect is now under way in Pennsylvania. In the first phase during late May approximately 2,400 Korean wasp parasites were liberated, each capable of killing close to 500 beetle grubs.

Armed with nearly 500 pounds of milky disease spore dust, agents of the Bureau of Plant Industry will inoculate grasslands at 10 foot intervals at strategic points in beetle infested areas within the State. The germs will kill all beetle grubs with which they come in contact.

Only quick action by State officials and cooperation of U. S. Department of Agriculture entomologists has made this year's milky disease supply available. In early Spring U. S. Army engineers commandeered all commercial supplies of the spore dust for use at Army airports. For a time it appeared that Pennsylvania would have none at all.

With commercial supplies cut off it was up to Dr. Thomas L. Guyton, Director of the State's Bureau of Plant Industry, to locate spore dust to continue the control program. He finally obtained the promise of the U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry to make some at its New Jersey laboratories if Pennsylvania would supply sufficient disease-free beetle grubs. The spraying crews in the gypsy moth quarantine area in Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties in two days gathered 100,000 such grubs.

In the making of spore dust each disease-free Jap beetle grub is "shot" with an injection to give it the milky disease, then carefully nursed along for 12 to 14 days at a temperature of 86 degrees until the germ kills the grub which by that time has turned milky white, a condition which gives the disease its name. Dead grubs are ground to powder, disease germs and all, mixed with talc, and the resulting spore dust is ready for use.

The limited supply, of which none is available for private use this year, will be used where last year's distribution stopped in the southeastern counties. Some areas in York and Lebanon Counties will be completed and the balance will be used where heavy infestation is building up in Armstrong and Cambria Counties and in areas along the Allegheny River, in limited areas near Williamsport and Lock Haven, and in Luzerne County.

LANCASTER COUNTY LEADS IN CHICKENS

LANCASTER County has slightly more than one-tenth of all chickens in Pennsylvania and thereby takes first place among all counties in the State in the number of chickens, a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service reveals.

Although Lancaster last year yielded first place in egg production to York County by a margin of about 2,160,000, the Red Rose county held its 1943 first place in the number of chickens when the annual estimate was made January 1 of this year. At that time Lancaster had 2,532,900 chickens out of the State total of 24,979,000 valued at $34,971,000. York was in second place with 2,030,070 chickens.

Bucks, Berks, Chester and Montgomery Counties this year retained the third, fourth, fifth and sixth places that they held last year. Adams advanced from eighth to seventh place, interchanging with Bradford, and Franklin moved from tenth to ninth, displacing Butler County.

Third place Bucks had 1,470,900 chickens on January 1; Berks 1,087,950; Chester, 708,120; Montgomery, 660,650; Adams, 617,450; Bradford, 606,390; Franklin, 592,790, and Butler, 578,500.

PURCHASING POWER OF DOLLAR DROPS

PURCHASING power of the Pennsylvania farmer's dollar dropped another cent in the month ended June 15, according to a report on prices received by farmers in that period, issued by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Based on the farmer's dollar being worth 100 cents on an average of values for the 5-year period from 1909 to 1914, it is now worth $1.13, compared with $1.14 for the Nation and $1.28 a year earlier. Highest value of the farm dollar during the war period was reached in May 1943 when it was worth $1.29.

For the month ended June 15 the index of prices Pennsylvania farmers must pay for goods and services remained at 170, the same as for May, but the net declines in prices received by farmers for principal crops was sufficient to reduce the purchasing power of the farmer's dollar.

On the 1909-14 basis of 100, the index of prices received by Pennsylvania farmers for principal agricultural products declined 2 points, from 194 to 192, during the month. With the approach of the new harvest season, food grain (wheat) declined 2 points, to 168. Feed grain and hay dropped 3 points to 163 and vegetables (potatoes) dropped 13 points to 171. This made a total decline of 7 points in the crop group index, from 212 to 205.

A 2 point advance in the meat animal index was offset by a 1 point decline in poultry and eggs, with the result that the livestock and livestock products index remained unchanged at 188. Comparisons of prices received follow:

	June 15 1943	May 15 1944	June 15 1944
Wheat, Bu.	$ 1.44	$ 1.66	$ 1.64
Corn, Bu.	1.12	1.46	1.44
Oats, Bu.	.73	.98	.96
Barley, Bu.	.91	1.33	1.31
Rye, Bu.	.93	1.28	1.22
Buckwheat, Bu.	1.08	1.35	1.42
Soybeans, Bu.	2.15	2.00	2.00
Potatoes, Bu.	2.90	1.40	1.30
Hay, Ton	14.50	18.00	17.10
Apples, Bu.	2.15	3.30	3.30
Hogs, Cwt.	14.20	12.90	13.00
Beef cattle, Cwt.	13.70	13.00	13.10
Veal, calves, Cwt.	16.30	14.70	14.70
Sheep, Cwt.	6.40	5.70	5.50
Lambs, Cwt.	13.60	13.70	13.70
Milk cows, Head	158.00	158.00	153.00
Horses, Head	146.00	134.00	135.00
Mules, Head	150.00	147.00	144.00
Chickens, Lb.	.297	.278	.269
Turkeys, Lb.	.36	.370	.370
Milk, wholesale Cwt.	3.30	3.50	3.50
Milk, retail, Qt.	.141	.143	.143
Butter, Lb.	.49	.48	.48
Butterfat, Lb.	.49	.50	.49
Eggs, Doz.	.379	.284	.285
Wool, Lb.	.47	.42	.43

BARLEY HOLDINGS

PENNSYLVANIA farmers by June 1 had reduced their holdings of last year's barley crop to 275,000 bushels, or 10 per cent of the total crop, according to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. A year earlier the barley holdings amounted to 533,000 bushels, or 13 per cent of the 1942 crop. Average holdings on June 1, from 1934 to 1942, were 282,000 bushels, or 11.8 per cent.

Rye stocks on June 1 totaled 106,000 bushels, or 17 per cent of the 1943 crop. This compares with 17 per cent a year earlier and 20 per cent for the 1934-42 average.

TOBACCO REVISIONS

REVISED estimates of the 1943 Pennsylvania tobacco crop show increases in the number of pounds and the price per pound which add nearly $700,000 to earlier estimates on the total value of the crop, a Federal-State report declares. The crop totaled 40,014,000 pounds compared with 39,715,000 pounds estimated last Fall when the average price per pound was figured at 17 cents. Prices for the 1943 crop actually averaged 18.6 cents per pound, making the total value $7,455,000 compared with an average price of 13.7 cents for the 1942 crop, valued at $5,775,000.

DAMAGE BY BROOD I OF 17-YEAR LOCUST MISSES FARM AREAS

GOOD news for farmers and fruit growers of Adams, Franklin and Cumberland Counties came recently when it was learned that there is a possibility of only light damage to trees from Brood I of the 17-year locust, and that most damage this year might be confined to mountain and forest areas.

Having received only scattered reports of the presence of the locust from farmers of the tri-county area, Drs. Thomas L. Guyton, Director, and A. B. Champlain, entomologist of the Bureau of Plant Industry, visited the region. They returned with plenty of evidence that the locust is normal in its activities but confined to spotty areas, mostly on the tops of wooded mountain ridges.

Various broods of the 17-year locust —which total 30 throughout the nation—have been known eventually to disappear from given areas of infestation, due largely to the clearing of forest lands and the conditions which accompany settlement and soil cultivation.

Prior to the observation tour of the area by Department representatives, locusts had been picked up in widely scattered sections of the three counties. Many farmers located at some distance from the heavily wooded sections reported they had not seen or heard the periodical cicadas.

Visiting the higher woodland areas Drs. Guyton and Champlain found the tips of many tree twigs broken at points where female locusts had slit the bark to deposit eggs. The leaves on the broken twigs had died and in some areas the damage was observed to be fairly extensive. Brood I is confined to the more southern section of the three counties. The areas affected are quite small and might be missed by observers in other than dense forest growth.

Brood II of the 17-year locust, one of the best recorded of all broods, will appear next year in most Eastern Pennsylvania counties and along the Atlantic Seaboard.

START TRAPPING TO LOCATE GYPSY MOTHS

A TRAPPING campaign to determine the presence of gypsy moths and locate isolated infestations to control spread of the highly destructive insect has started in nine Northeastern Pennsylvania counties.

Seven thousand metal or cardboard traps are placed in 72 townships and 70 boroughs in the counties of Monroe, Northampton, Lehigh, Wayne, Carbon, Luzerne, Wyoming, and Lackawanna, and along the Susquehanna River on Route 309 from Falls Township through Bradford County to the New York State line.

Local home and landowners, county, borough and township officers are being contacted prior to placement of the traps by agents of the Department's Bureau of Plant Industry, and the Division of Gypsy Moth Control, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Most of the traps are small cylinders baited with material that tempts male gypsy moths to fly to the trap where they are caught on a coating of tanglefoot. Traps are placed at half-mile intervals.

According to C. F. Campbell, entomologist in charge of gypsy moth eradication for the Pennsylvania Bureau of Plant Industry, the State has been fighting the moth since 1932 in the heavily infested areas in the vicinity of Wilkes-Barre, and in parts of Lackawanna County also lighter infestations in Carbon and Monroe Counties.

Two airplanes were used this year for dusting and spraying with cryolite to supplement the work of ground spraying crews. Eleven hundred acres were covered from the air and several hundred town properties were treated by ground crews.

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GYPSY MOTH ERADICATION SEEN COMPLETE IN SUCCESSFUL TEST WITH D. D. T. SPRAY

THE new "miracle" insecticide, D.D.T., has been reported 100 per cent effective in its first extensive test on agricultural pests in Pennsylvania.

Just as D.D.T. has conquered the typhus louse and malarial mosquito on the battle fronts, it has now spelled the doom of the gypsy moth which is rated as Pennsylvania's No. 1 plant enemy, far more destructive than the Japanese beetle and the European corn borer, both of which the powerful insecticide is known to kill.

From cooperating Federal and State Department of Agriculture officials in charge of the gypsy moth control and eradication program that has been under way for 12 years in the Luzerne-Lackawanna County area in northeastern Pennsylvania, where their efforts have prevented the pest from spreading to other parts of the State, it was learned that:

1. On May 3 a solution of D.D.T. was sprayed from an airplane on a 20-acre woodland tract in Jefferson Township on the eastern edge of Lackawanna County about 10 miles east of Scranton, scattering the insecticide in a fine mist that filtered through trees to the ground, at the rate of five pounds of D.D.T. to the acre;

2. On May 4 gypsy moth eggs began to hatch, and by May 10 approximately 90 per cent of the egg clusters in the entire area had hatched;

3. On May 6 and 7 rainfall of 1½ inches fell on the area, and on May 15 an additional ¼ inch of rain fell;

4. On May 16 observers reported that "at no time during the period from May 3 to May 16 was there any evidence of living larvae (gypsy moth caterpillars) found feeding on the foliage" in the entire 20-acre test plot;

5. Between May 3 and 16, and since the latter date, no living leaf-feeding insects, practically no mosquitoes, and no black flies could be found in the D.D.T. treated area, though all of these and gypsy moth caterpillars could be found in abundance in untreated neighboring areas. Birds continue to be seen and heard in the treated woodlands; poultry and grazing cattle on a farm across the road from the area where particles of the insecticide settled, are unaffected after nine weeks;

Cash Award, But No Takers

6. Shortly after May 16, C. F. Campbell, senior entomologist in charge of the gypsy moth control work for Pennsylvania, was so sure that all insect life in the area had been destroyed that he offered out of his own pocket one dollar for every gypsy caterpillar found in the treated area. To date he has not had to pay a single claim.

"Observations have now been completed through the entire gypsy moth egg hatching season," J. M. Corliss, entomologist in charge of Federal gypsy moth control activities in Pennsylvania, declared. "Not a single worm has survived the airplane's one D.D.T. spray application. Before spraying, we placed 20 small plates of glass on the ground, one to each acre. Each plate afterwards showed a generous deposit of needle-like crystals, proving perfect penetration and coverage. A live caterpillar dropped on one of these plates today will curl up and die shortly after.

"The test has been most successful. Final proof of this came about July 5 when we discovered that D.D.T. even kills the gypsy moth in its pupal or inactive stage.

"Since the Armed Forces now are taking all D.D.T. that can be manufactured for a more important and humane cause, we shall wait until after the war and hope in a very few years the gypsy moth can and will be eliminated from Pennsylvania."

The insecticide was discovered about 72 years ago by a German chemist. No uses were given and the formula was uncovered and tested as a stable fly eradicator in 1939 by a Swiss. Chief ingredients are chlorine, alchohol and sulphuric acid. Each U. S. soldier on active duty is said to carry a 2-ounce package of D.D.T. powder for emergency use against harmful insects.

Much Research to be Done

Caution against too high hopes for the performance and general use of D.D.T. (dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane) in eliminating such insect pests as Jap beetles, corn borer, codling moth, aphids, flea beetles and others, was expressed by Secretary Horst, who evidenced great pleasure with far-reaching results of the gypsy moth test.

"It will take time to make satisfactory tests," he declared. "We know it will keep flies away from stables and barns, homes and kitchens. But we also know that it will kill some insects that are beneficial unless care is exercised in its use. Among others it may kill honey bees that are valuable in fertilizing fruits and clovers, unless proper precautions are taken. Much research remains to be done and it is being done with all possible speed."

Ground Sprays Successful

In addition to the 20-acre tract covered by airplane, a half-acre and a one-acre tract were treated by power pump spray applications from the ground on May 4 and 6. In each tract almost the same effectiveness of D.D.T. was observed as in the air-sprayed tract. The supply for the test was from a limited quantity allocated to the U. S. Department of Agriculture for test purposes.

If allowed to go uncontrolled the gypsy moth would completely devour leaves from and kill practically all fruit trees and most of the valuable forest trees in its path. Lack of large oaks on Cape Cod is said to be due to ravages of the pest which is prevalent in Massachusetts, parts of New York and New England states. Control work has restricted spread in Pennsylvania, where, since 1932 the State and Federal governments have spent close to $5,000,000 in annual ground pump and airplane spraying and dusting with cryolite and other insecticides.

The State's activities in this direction are under the immediate supervision of Dr. Thomas L. Guyton, Director of the Bureau of Plant Industry with Mr. Campbell located at headquarters in Wilkes-Barre. In addition to Mr. Corliss, Federal representatives at Wilkes-Barre are Philip B. Dowden and W. H. Hanley, entomologists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

FARMERS CULL OLD HENS, GET CHICKS

ALTHOUGH egg prices this Summer are more favorable to the producer, and there are prospects for bigger crops of home-grown feed grains, farmers and poultrymen of Pennsylvania have been culling out their unprofitable old hens earlier than usual, preparing to replace them with pullets for Fall and Winter egg production.

E. J. Lawless, Jr., in charge of the poultry and eggs division of the Bureau of Markets, reports that many farmers who last Spring ordered only one batch of baby chicks have been getting a second batch for replacements. In general they are buying sexed chicks from strains of proved egg production, while others are going in for some of the heavier breeds for meat.

Culling is being done by Bureau inspectors. In addition to making room for better birds and reducing feed overhead, growers find ready sale for chickens to agencies preparing them for the Armed Forces. Civilian demand for poultry continues even though ration points are not now required for most meats.

NEED FOR FEED BRINGS INCREASED GRAIN PLANTINGS

WHILE it has meant longer hours of work in the face of the most serious farm labor shortage of the war years, Pennsylvania farmers have exceeded their own earlier expectations by increasing acreages of small grains, except barley and rye, this year from 8 to 17 per cent over last year.

The growing by farmers of more of their own feed grains for livestock and poultry to help ease a continuing serious shortage of feed became known through the July 1 general crop report of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Winter wheat acreage was increased 17 per cent, corn 8 per cent and oats 9 per cent over last year. The increase for corn is well above the initial estimate made as of March 1 when reports indicated that farmers would plant 4 per cent more than in 1943. Barley acreages were reduced 30 per cent, rye 10 per cent, potatoes 6 per cent and hay 3 per cent under last year's acreages.

Along with the increased acreage for corn, grown this year on 1,398,000 acres, condition on July 1 indicated a yield of 44 bushels per acre, 6 more than last year, which should bring a crop of 61,512,000 bushels, well above last year's production of 49,172,000 bushels and the average of 54,713,000 for the 10-year period, 1933-42.

Wheat acreage was jumped from 781,000 to 914,000, and will yield about 21 bushels to the acre, 4 more than last year, producing a crop of 19,194,000 bushels, compared with 13,277,000 last year and the 10-year average of 16,400,000 bushels.

Oats is being grown on 832,000 acres, compared with 763,000 last year, and the yield per acre will be 30 bushels, 10.5 more than last year, for a total crop of 24,960,000 bushels, a good 10 million bushels more than last year, but about 1 million under the 10-year average.

Barley harvest should produce 2,552,000 bushels at the rate of 29 bushels per acre, or 7 more than last year. However, a smaller acreage will bring total production below that of 1943.

Rye should yield 15 bushels to the acre, 2 more than last year, with total production estimated at 645,000 bushels. Hay production is slightly under last year, 3,162 tons compared with 3,399, the yield per acre dropping from 1.52 to 1.45 tons.

Fruit Production High

On July 1 the indicated production was for a commercial crop of 10,400,000 bushels of apples, which is 5,330,000 more than last year and 1,314,000 above the 10-year average.

Many peach growers are expecting large crops of fine quality. Production is estimated at 1,909,000 bushels, or 733,000 more than last year and 281,000 above the 10-year average.

Pears are a failure in many orchards. The bloom was heavy but dropped off before the fruit had a chance to set. The 1944 crop is estimated at 458,000 bushels, which is 284,000 more than last year, but 100,000 under the 10-year average.

The July 1 estimate of production for cherries was for 10,400 tons, an all-time record which is 6,800 tons in excess of 1943 production and 2,660 tons above the 10-year average.

More Potatoes

Total potato acreage in Pennsylvania was reduced 6 per cent this year from last, with a total of 165,000 acres to be harvested compared with 176,000 last year and the 10-year average of 188,000 acres.

There is a big jump in the average yield per acre, from 106 bushels last year to an estimated 125 this year. This compares with the 10-year average of 121 bushels. The total estimated crop this year is 20,625,000 bushels against 18,656,000 last year and the 10-year average of 22,836,000.

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MILK DOWN, BUT EGG TOTAL SETS RECORD FOR 33RD MONTH

ALTHOUGH there was a seasonal decline of 17 per cent in Pennsylvania egg production for the month of June, laying hens and pullets established an all-time record for the month by amassing a total of 246,000,000 eggs, 8 million more than for the same month last year. Pennsylvania farm flocks produced 298 million eggs during the preceding month of May.

June was the 33rd consecutive month that Pennsylvania hens set up a new high in egg production compared with the same month of the previous year. The record was largely due to an increase of 395,000 in the number of layers over June, 1943 and a slight increase in the rate of lay per bird, according to the chicken and egg report for June, issued by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Egg production in the State during the first six months of this year exceeded production for the corresponding period last year by 7 per cent. Compared with June 1943, commercial poultrymen cooperating in the survey were receiving this June 23 per cent less for eggs and were paying 22 per cent more per hundred pounds for food.

There was an increase of 2.6 cents in the average price received for eggs, to 31.7 cents per dozen, from May to June. However, the cost of laying mash advanced 5 cents during the month, to $3.80 a hundred pounds, and scratch feed went up 4 cents to $3.19 a hundred. This brought a reduction in the egg-feed ratio so that 100 pounds of feed were equal to the value of 132 eggs, or 10 less than in May. In the same month a year ago eggs were bringing nearly 10 cents a dozen more, when the value of only 84 eggs was needed to buy 100 pounds of feed.

The average June price received by commercial poultrymen for live chickens dropped 1 cent from May, to 26.4 cents per pound. During June the number of laying hens and pullets fell off 7 per cent, from 16,684,000 to 15,396,000. The seasonal drop in lay per bird was from an average of 17.86 in May to 15.98 in June.

Milk 1 pct. Below June 1943

Milk production on Pennsylvania farms during "June Milk Month" totaled 473,000,000 pounds, a drop of 3 per cent below May and 1 per cent below June 1943. Dry weather and extreme heat in some localities during the last week in June, together with a shortage of feed grain supplies, caused a falling off of milk flow, according to E. L. Gasteiger, agricultural statistician.

Production per cow was half a pound less on July 1, 1944 than on the same date a year ago, and four-tenths of a pound below the 10-year average for July 1 production from 1933 to 1942.

June of each year is set aside for national observance as Milk Month to call attention to the importance of milk and milk products as food. National production for the month this year was approximately twelve and a half billion pounds, slightly less than June of last year and also below production for June 1942. Commenting on the national situation the June dairy report declares:

"Civilian demand for dairy products at prevailing prices appears to be larger than civilian supplies, and probably will continue strong as long as employment and income remain near present levels . . .

"Above average pastures have contributed to the present level of production, and substantial production decline would result if pasture condition declined to the long-time average during the Summer."

2ND BROOD BORER MOTHS NOW FLYING

DUE largely to weather conditions, first generation European corn borers have entered the pupal or inactive stage at least a full week earlier than usual, and as a result, the Department has warned farmers and Victory gardeners in infested areas to start control dusting or spraying not later than the end of this week, preferably by Thursday, July 27.

The application of rotenone as a dust or spray, or a 4 per cent fixed nicotine dust every five days through the second generation egg hatching season, or until about August 16, is recommended by the Bureau of Plant Industry.

Few live borer worms have been observed in the heavily infested southeastern Pennsylvania area for several days. Most have turned into small brown cylindrical forms found inside sweet corn and field corn, potato, tomato, string bean and heavy weed stalks.

Many growers of sweet corn report complete loss of their early plantings. Damage so far this year is much more extensive than for the same period last year. Destruction by the second brood borers during August and September will be even more serious.

In northwestern and west-central counties the single generation European corn borer has been observed in advance worm stages and will be active for the remainder of the season. Nothing can be done for control of this brood any more this Summer. Reports from one section of Erie County show from 5 to 79 per cent of corn stalks infested.

Second generation moths are now flying and laying eggs which appear in whitish masses, usually on the under side of leaves of the corn plant. It takes four to six days for the eggs to hatch young borers that begin almost immediately to bore into the leaf mid-ribs and work down into the stalk. It is only while young borers are crawling about on the surface that the poison sprays or dusts are effective. The eggs hatch at varied intervals over a period of about three weeks, depending upon when they were laid.

CAN BEANS NOW

NOW is the time for housewives—who do not have Victory gardens—to buy snap beans for canning. An over-supply and low prices for beans and cabbage in some of the larger vegetable growing areas of the State have created a condition whereby it does not pay the growers to harvest and market portions of their crops.

"Buy now for canning," Secretary Horst recently urged housewives. "Prices are low and wastage of large quantities of important wartime foods can be avoided."

MORE GRAPES

WHILE national production of grapes is expected this year to be about 11 per cent less than the record crop of 1943, production in Pennsylvania will be 5,500 tons more than last year, sufficient to rank the State fifth among all the states, according to July 1 estimates of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

The crop is estimated at 20,800 tons compared with 15,300 tons last year and the 10-year average of 17,850 tons, 1933 to 1942. Pennsylvania grapes had favorable weather to July 1, foliage good and clusters large. Brown rot was reported in some vineyards but is now under control.

Pennsylvania will produce more peaches this year than any other northeastern state. The estimated crop of 1,909,000 bushels is about 130,000 bushels more than New York.

ALWAYS 'PLAY SAFE' GOOD FARM SAFETY WEEK RESOLUTION

THE best way for Pennsylvania farmers to observe National Farm Safety Week (July 23-29) is to make at least two good resolutions and follow each of them 52 weeks of the year, Secretary Horst declares.

One resolution is to "play safe" at all times in the handling of machinery, equipment, bulls, horses and other animals, permitting only experienced members of the family or hired hands to do such tasks, he said.

The other is to follow the suggestion of Harrison S. Nolt, Columbia, president of the Pennsylvania Rural Home and Farm Safety Committee, to take time during the week to list every hazard that might lead to accidents on the farm and in the farm home, and to make repairs and adjustments as soon as possible.

It is estimated that 10,000 serious accidents occur each year on Pennsylvania farms," the Secretary said. "Most are due to carelessness. Yesterday I saw two farm people, each with an arm in a sling. One was a man who had been working in a neighbor's haymow and had failed to locate in advance the floor opening through which hay is moved to livestock on the floor below. The inevitable fall broke a bone. The other was a woman who slipped and fell down her own cellar stairs where there was no hand rail. With precaution, both injuries could have been avoided.

"Multiply these two common accidents by the hundreds that possibly have occurred this Summer and the net result is the loss of hundreds of thousands of valuable work-hours on the farm where every hour counts in raising food for war."

Mr. Nolt reported that two neighboring Lancaster County farmers last week lost irreplaceable grain combines through destruction by fire while operating in fields. "Don't tolerate farm accidents—prevent them," he declared in urging all farmers and farm housewives to make an immediate inventory of repairs and adjustments to buildings, machines, vehicles, livestock pens, steps, ladders and other equipment. "Such a check-up will give surprising results," he added.

TOBACCO ACREAGE UP

INSTEAD of reducing acreage for the growing of tobacco by 4 per cent this year, as they had contemplated last Spring, Pennsylvania tobacco farmers abandoned earlier intentions and have actually increased their plantings by 6 per cent over last year, a recent survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service discloses.

Total 1944 acreage is 33,600, or approximately 2,000 acres more than last year. The indicated yield per acre is 1,451 pounds compared with 1,262 last year and the 10-year average of 1,385. Production is estimated at 48,762,000 pounds, approximately 8,750,000 pounds more than last year, about 10 million pounds in excess of the 10-year average.

GRAIN STOCKS LOW

REFLECTING the livestock and poultry feed scarcity, there were approximately two and a half million fewer bushels of corn on Pennsylvania farms as of July 1 than a year earlier, a recent Federal-State report disclosed.

Stocks of corn on hand July 1 were estimated at 7,004,000 bushels compared with 9,555,000 on July 1, 1943 and the 1933-42 average of 8,418,000 bushels.

Oats stocks totaled 1,934,000 bushels compared with 3,641,000 a year earlier and 3,997,000 for the 10-year average for the July 1 date.

Old crop wheat on hand totaled 1,142,000 bushels compared with 1,683,000 on July 1, 1943, and 1,504,000 for the 10-year average.

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Miles Horst, Secretary of Agriculture

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NO ARMY SET-ASIDE FOR TURKEYS ASKED THIS YEAR IN PENN'A

MORE Pennsylvania home-grown turkeys may be available to civilians for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners this year than last, since this State is not included in the government's set-aside order for holiday dinner birds for members of the Armed Forces.

Last year Pennsylvania farmers were not permitted to sell turkeys until the military quota had been filled, but there are no such restrictions this year, according to the W. F. A. The current set-aside order became effective July 17 in 24 designated states and in certain counties in Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

Turkeys marketed in Pennsylvania and all other undesignated States and counties may be sold in civilian trade channels without restriction and the order covering the designated turkey areas will be lifted as soon as the Army Quartermaster has obtained the required quantity. While total needs for the Armed Forces have not been disclosed, they are likely to exceed the 35 million pounds obtained last year, it is said.

Although Pennsylvania farmers and poultrymen are raising fewer chickens this year, their demands for recently hatched turkeys have been unusually heavy, a recent report of hatchery production by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service declares.

The demand for turkey poults continued through June in Pennsylvania, but dropped off 11 per cent nationally compared with the same month in 1943. However, hatchery production of poults for the first 5 months of this year throughout the country was about 26 per cent larger than last year. Pennsylvania hatchery orders for ducklings and baby guineas during June in some instances exceeded the supply.

Chick Demand for Heavy Breeds

Many Pennsylvania farmers and poultrymen were disappointed during June in their inability to obtain baby chicks from hatcheries that had either terminated or sharply curtailed production due to the falling off that was experienced in chick orders during the Spring months.

As the first half of the 1944 hatching season drew to a close, demand for chicks was limited almost exclusively to the heavy breeds for meat. Hatcheries reporting indicated that their business in June was only half of what it had been in June of last year. Some reported that the fertility of eggs placed in incubators was relatively low.

During June Pennsylvania hatcheries set 5,175,000 eggs and hatched 4,850,000 chicks. For the same month last year 12,199,000 eggs were set and 9,454,000 chicks hatched. For the first six months of 1944 a total of 73,597,000 eggs were set and 50,530,000 chicks were hatched. For the same period last year approximately 86,500,000 eggs were set and 58,700,000 chicks hatched.

4TH IN CHERRIES

PENNSYLVANIA this year should attain 4th place in production among all states that grow quantities of sour cherries, according to a Federal-State survey of conditions as of June 15.

On June 1 the Pennsylvania sour cherry crop was estimated at a record 8,200 tons. By June 15 conditions were such that the estimate dropped 500 tons to 7,700 tons which is still a record for the State. The previous record crop was that of 1942 when production totaled 7,400 tons.

Adams and Erie Counties are the heaviest Pennsylvania sour cherry producing areas. Michigan is the leading sour cherry state with an estimated production of 52,400 tons. New York with 20,000 and Wisconsin with 12,000 tons will rank second and third.

CANNING CALENDAR

THE Bureau of Markets provides the following guide or calendar of approximate dates when fruits and vegetables, under normal weather conditions, might be at peak harvest in Pennsylvania and when home canning and the preparation of foods for freezer locker storage should be most profitable to housewives who have no victory gardens or inadequate supplies from their gardens:

Snap beans—August through September.

Lima beans—Some available now; greatest volume in mid-August and later.

Beets—Early varieties available now; abundant through remainder of Summer.

Tomatoes—Supply just coming in, a week earlier than usual; biggest supply from late August through September.

Sweet corn—Early supplies now fairly strong and should continue heavy during all of August to mid-September. Hot, dry weather may affect quality; watch for corn borer and corn ear worm damage to ears.

Carrots—Early crop now available in good quantities.

Cabbage—For those who make sauerkraut early, the supply is excellent and price reasonably low. Late cabbage harvest will peak in October and early November.

Cucumbers (for pickles)—Supply periodic, depending on cool, wet weather.

Cauliflower, swiss chard, spinach and other greens.—Not good for canning in hot weather; best to wait until fall crops come in.

Apples—Summer varieties for canning apple sauce are in fairly good supply but will be more plentiful during August.

Peaches—Harvest will be at peak from about August 20 to early September.

Pears—Peak season mid-August to September 1, with late varieties about Sept. 15.

ADVERSE WEATHER

EXCEPT for the southwestern quarter of the State, rainfall was definitely inadequate for farm and garden crops throughout Pennsylvania during the week ended Tuesday, July 25, according to the Federal-State weather and crop report for that period.

In the southeast section pastures were drying up and drouth conditions there and in sections other than the southwest area caused corn to wilt in some localities, reduced yields of early potatoes, delayed the planting of buckwheat, reduced second cuttings of alfalfa, retarded growth of tobacco, and placed late potatoes where they greatly need rain.

Fall plowing had started in southern counties despite dry conditions. The oats crop was ripening fast except in northern counties where fields were still green. Oats harvest was moving northward to the central part of the State. Winter grain harvest was about over in the southern sections but there was still considerable wheat to combine elsewhere. Much haying was still to be done in the north and a short second crop of alfalfa was being cut in central and southeastern counties.

Truck Crops Hurt

A truck crop report covering the first two weeks in July declared that several extremely hot days and lack of rain hurt all maturing vegetables and delayed progress of recent plantings. Crops were generally in fair to good condition due to abundance of sub-soil moisture, but good rains were urgently needed in most areas.

Hot weather cut deeply into yields of snap beans, early beets, early cabbage and damaged young plants of late cabbage. The cucumber crop also was set back by hot weather since July 1, and vines which were setting then will have light yields.

CANNING TOMATOES START FROM STATE'S LARGEST ACREAGE

SCARCITY of labor in the fields and in canning plants looms as a possible handicap in handling the largest acreage of canning tomatoes ever grown in Pennsylvania, according to D. M. James, in charge of the fruit and vegetable division, Bureau of Markets.

Due largely to irregularity of planting on account of weather conditions and late arrival of plants from the South, canning tomato harvest will reach two peak seasons this year, the first within the next few weeks and the second in late September. Crews of high school students and prisoners of war will be used in the larger cannery sections, but may be insufficient at the critical peak times.

"Farmers began hauling early tomatoes last week to the first canning plants to open this year, at Chambersburg and Biglerville, a full week ahead of any other year," Mr. James reported. "Never before have tomato canning operations started in commercial plants during July. Tomatoes are ripening rapidly now and the first plantings will reach an early peak. The unusually late plantings will peak in late September."

Pennsylvania's large crop of tomatoes for processing is being grown on approximately 36,000 acres, 18 per cent more than last year and 117 per cent above the 10-year average, 1933 to 1942. Much of the increase is due to a larger number of farmers growing the crop for canneries which have grown in number and size throughout the State in recent years.

Greatest production this year will be in southeastern counties, principally Bucks, Lancaster, and Lebanon, and the south-central counties of York, Cumberland and Franklin. Increased acreages also are reported from central counties of Juniata, Perry, Union, Northumberland, Montour, Columbia, Lycoming, and Huntingdon. Many farmers in Fulton are growing canning crops for the first time. Erie County will have the largest production in the northwest.

According to Mr. James the best canning tomatoes will come in the latter part of September. Extremely hot and dry weather reduces quality and has a tendency to "cook" the tomatoes, leaving them with tops slightly yellow. The crop is greatly in need of rain in most sections, but in general is in fairly good condition.

The Bureau of Markets has received many more requests for State inspection of tomatoes at processing plants than in any previous year.

VEGETABLE OUTLOOK

LATEST estimates on 1944 Pennsylvania production of commercially grown vegetables for fresh market, based on conditions reported as of July 1, are announced by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service as follows:

Snap beans—Pennsylvania production estimated to be 544,000 bushels, the same as last year, but the acreage is 200 less than the 3,400 acres grown last year.

Beets—Production is 414,000 bushels compared with 462,000 harvested last year from 1,150 acres, 100 less than in 1943.

Cabbage—An indicated crop of 35,700 tons compared with 28,700 last year. The acreage this year is 100 more than the 4,100 acres last year.

Sweet corn—Production of 62,400,000 ears compared with 52,800,000 in 1943. The acreage is 1,000 more than last year.

Cucumbers—The acreage is the same as a year ago, 640 acres, but the production of 141,000 bushels is 3,000 under last year's.

Tomatoes—Production for fresh market is estimated at 620,000 bushels, which is 18,000 less than last year, although the crop is being grown on 200 acres more than the 2,900 acres harvested in 1943.

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STOP SALE OF FOODS FROM PLANT SAID TO BE UNSANITARY

THE Dauphin County Court on August 3 issued a preliminary injunction against the Sunshine Packing Corporation, North East, Erie County, restraining it from selling its food products within the State. The injunction was served immediately, and is in line with the regular program of the State Department of Agriculture to enforce the Pennsylvania Pure Food Laws. The Court on August 7, extended the injunction 30 days.

The Sunshine company has been and is processing fruit under unsanitary conditions and is now in unlawful possession of and offering for sale "adulterated, contaminated, diseased, filthy and decomposed" food products, according to the complaint filed by Attorney General James H. Duff at the request of Secretary of Agriculture Miles Horst.

Deputy Attorney General Ralph B. Umsted, who appeared in court for the Attorney General, said State Police would be posted at the North East plant to see that the order of the court is carried out "to protect the health of the people of the State."

The injunction follows a personal inspection of the North East plant by Secretary Horst on July 22 when he warned the management that "Pennsylvania would not tolerate the sale of products manufactured under such conditions." His request for a clean-up of conditions was not observed by the company.

The complaint also alleges that in addition to processing fruit decomposed to such extent that it was unfit for human consumption, the company was illegally using sulphur dioxide in some phases of its food operations.

"The public need not be unduly alarmed," the Secretary declared, "for we are keeping a careful watch on all processing plants. This is an isolated instance. We have evidence on other food law violations and will act in accordance with the law. We regret the necessity for stopping sales at the Sunshine plant, but it is the only way we could stop a practice that we consider harmful to public health."

Federal Support of Findings

Chemists' reports on numerous analyses of fruit and finished products obtained by State inspectors at the Sunshine plant were filed with the Court, together with affidavits by Federal Food and Drug officials, supporting the findings of State food inspectors.

Samples taken in one day from the end of the sorter belt, just before sugar was added, showed 42 per cent of raspberries were moldy, 1.4 per cent were rotten, and the juice showed 75 per cent mold contamination. Blueberries showed an average of 70 maggots in each of two 20-ounce samplings.

Analysis of fruits treated with sulphur dioxide, from which extracts were to be made later, showed approximately 50 per cent rotten, and fruit juices treated with sulphur dioxide showed 50 per cent mold contamination.

Finished juices were found that contained a high percentage of volatile and lactic acids and alcohol. Other finished juices had as high as 100 per cent mold contamination and many yeast spores.

The Sunshine Packing Corporation is one of the largest of its kind in the State. It is engaged in "processing and canning fruits, preserves, flavorings and the like for sales and consumption," and has numerous storage plants at North East and other places throughout the State.

Officers of the company are Fred L. Rahal, president; Catherine Rahal, vice president; Howard J. Bowes, secretary; and Joseph E. Rahal, treasurer, all of North East. The company also operates a plant at Greencastle, Pa., and Treasurer Joseph E. Rahal is president of the Ohio Fruit Company, Cleveland, Ohio.

QUALITY APPLES ARE IN GREATER DEMAND

WEATHER permitting, Pennsylvania commercial apple production for 1944 will be up to all expectations with the exception of York Imperials, and Adams again will lead all counties of the State in total production, Secretary Horst told a recent meeting of the Adams County Fruit Growers Association at Arendtsville. More apples for civilian use will be available this year than last, he added.

The Secretary expressed disappointment of growers in the "off-year" short crop of York apples which are depended upon for the bulk of the cannery supply because of their excellence for that purpose. Growers reported the York variety this year would harvest no larger than last year's short crop. Reasons advanced included the set-back of trees from 1943 drought conditions and low fertilization this Spring due to heavy rains at blossoming time.

Stayman and other varieties show excellent prospects, and there are chances that, even with the expected loss in Yorks, total production for the State this year will equal if not surpass average production of about 9 million bushels, 1934 to 1941. Last year Yorks and Staymans were the heaviest producing varieties in the State. Staymans then had a slight edge, and are due for higher production this year.

"Not only is Pennsylvania holding its own in apple growing," the Secretary said, "but our growers gradually are forging ahead with a quality product that is coming to be in greater demand than that of the three other states that still lead us in total commercial production—Washington, New York and Virginia. In 1942, our last big apple year, the State ranked fourth in the Nation in production and value, 10,031,000 bushels worth $10,846,000.

"Pennsylvania apple growers are fortunate in having nearby markets. Many can haul fruit overnight to the largest eastern consumer centers.

"An immediate problem is planning for post-war marketing. Our wartime experience shows that the average consumer demands a small five- or ten-pound package of most fruits and some vegetables. Transportation and refrigeration problems as well as grading and packaging will enter the post-war marketing picture. In all of these problems our Bureau of Markets and the School of Agriculture at the Pennsylvania State College stand ready to aid the growers at all times."

PENN'A COUNTY FAIR SEASON IS STARTED

PENNSYLVANIA'S wartime county fair schedule opened this week with the 69th annual Bedford Fair and continues with one or more of the time-honored rural expositions to be held each week through the month of October. More than fifty county and community fair dates have been listed with the Department for the 1944 season, compared with 42 actually conducted last year.

Like many others to follow, the Bedford Fair is dedicated to "Ultimate Victory" and a large percentage of the premium and prize awards will be War Bonds and Stamps.

"Our farmers and fair associations are displaying more interest in county and community fairs this year than any time since the war started," Secretary Horst declared. "Farm families have been working extra long hours this season in their efforts to provide more food for war, and need the educational and diversion features that these exhibits provide.

"A day or two at a good county fair is just the tonic that farm folks need right now. It will help them in their all-out effort in doing their share toward winning the war."

Exhibits of farm products should be of better quality this year than last unless dry and hot weather conditions continue through the Summer.

Some of the larger county fairs scheduled for the remainder of August include the Kutztown Fair, August 14-19; Butler Fair, 15-18; Mercer Central, 22-25; Grange Encampment and Centre County Fair, 26-31; and Indiana County Fair, August 30-September 1. The Pittsburgh Hog Roundup will be held August 31.

POST-WAR EXPANSION SEEN IN STATE FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY

POST-WAR expansion of the food processing industry in Pennsylvania, to the extent of "many million dollars," and an accompanying increase of farm cash income through the growing of thousands of additional tons of fruits and vegetables for freezing and canning, was anticipated recently by Secretary Horst, speaking at a joint meeting of the Berks and Lehigh County Fruit Growers' Associations in Reading.

An encouraging number of new large and small processing plants, expansions to existing canning factories, and development of freezer units for frozen foods are contemplated for Pennsylvania by some of the largest companies in the East as soon as the war is over and construction work can be started, he declared.

Expansions will not be limited to a few areas, but will spread purposely over the entire State in areas adapted to the growing of crops for canning, benefiting a maximum number of farms and farm families.

"Pennsylvania ranks fourth in the nation in the value of its annual output of processed food," the Secretary said. "We are surpassed only by California, New York and Illinois, in that order. The value of foods processed in Pennsylvania jumped from $32,836,000 in 1939 to $58,639,000 in 1942.

"In the past two years priorities have enabled the food processing industry to grow beyond all expectations. Pennsylvania now has the largest grape juice and apple processing plants in the world. We have reason to believe that when priorities can be lifted with the coming of victory, these wartime expansions might be insignificant in comparison."

The speaker explained that, due to wartime emergency conditions, he was not authorized to name companies that are contemplating post-war expansions, or give possible locations. Giving one example of how farmers would benefit, he said:

"The growing of peas for canning and freezing is well established in our southern Pennsylvania counties, and the industry is now spreading to our central and northern counties where higher altitudes and cooler weather are well adapted for growing quality crops. More processing plants therefore are likely to be established in the northern agricultural areas.

"Seventeen years ago Pennsylvania farmers were growing only 4,000 acres of tomatoes for canning. Harvesting this year is under way on 36,000 acres. In the past ten years our State inspections of canning tomatoes jumped from 20 million pounds to nearly 200 million. Similar expansions have been achieved for apples, grapes, cherries, berries, corn, beans and peas. All should expand greately after the war."

The Berks-Lehigh area has developed in recent years as one of the outstanding fruit growing sections of the State. Berks is second only to Adams County in commercial apple production, its crop last year being worth $1,415,000. It ranks 24th among all counties of the United States in production. Lehigh ranks fourth in the State and 67th in the Nation. In peach production Berks ranks 49th and Lehigh 58th in the nation. Berks third and Lehigh fifth in the State. Berks is third in pear production in the State, and Lehigh is eighth. Berks is third in cherries, Lehigh seventh.

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FARMERS' DOLLAR RECOVERS SOME OF PURCHASING POWER

AFTER declining since last November, the purchasing power of the Pennsylvania farmers' dollar advanced from $1.12 June 15 to $1.17 July 15 on the basis of the farm dollar being valued at 100 cents average for the years 1909 to 1914, according to a report on prices received by farmers of the State during the month ended July 15, prepared by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

At the same time the index of prices received for principal agricultural products increased 8 points to 199, based on the 1909-14 average of 100. The advance was due in a large measure to the increase in the price received by farmers for potatoes, from $1.30 to $1.75 a bushel as the switch came from old to new crop spuds. This resulted in a net increase of 11 points in the crop index and was accompanied by an advance of 8 points in the index of prices received for livestock and livestock products, from 186 to 194. Meat animals, dairy products and poultry products all shared in the upward movement.

The index of prices farmers have to pay for goods and services remained at 170 for the period June 15 to July 15. The $1.17 value of the farmers' dollar compares with $1.26 a year earlier. Price comparisons follow:

	July 15 1943	June 15 1944	July 15 1944
Wheat, Bu.	$ 1.41	$ 1.64	$ 1.51
Corn, Bu.	1.14	1.44	1.45
Oats, Bu.	.74	.96	.95
Barley, Bu.	.96	1.31	1.27
Rye, Bu.	.97	1.22	1.24
Buckwheat, Bu.	1.24	1.42	1.42
Soybeans, Bu.	1.95	2.00	1.90
Potatoes, Bu.	2.15	1.30	1.75
Hay, loose, Ton	12.70	17.10	15.90
Apples, Bu.	2.55	3.30	2.30
Hogs, Cwt.	14.00	13.00	13.20
Beef cattle, Cwt.	13.10	13.10	13.20
Veal calves, Cwt.	16.30	14.70	15.10
Sheep, Cwt.	6.20	5.50	5.30
Lambs, Cwt.	13.40	13.70	13.40
Milk cows, Head	153.00	153.00	153.00
Horses, Head	144.00	135.00	130.00
Mules, Head	149.00	144.00	135.00
Chickens, Lb.	.292	.269	.274
Turkeys, Lb.	.36	.370	.360
Milk, whlse, Cwt.	3.40	3.40	3.50
Milk, retail, Qt.	.141	.143	.143
Butter, Lb.	.49	.48	.48
Butterfat, Lb.	.49	.49	.49
Eggs, Doz.	.409	.285	.348
Wool, Lb.	.48	.43	.45

CORN HOLDINGS LESS IN OFF-FARM BINS

STOCKS of shelled and ear corn held in Pennsylvania in all off-farm storages except those at terminal markets and bins of the Commodity Credit Corporation, on July 1 were 374,000 bushels less than holdings a year earlier, according to a report by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. Corn holdings on that date in positions covered by the report totaled 131,000 bushels compared with 505,000 bushels on July 1, 1943.

On the other hand, oats in these storage positions on July 1 of this year exceeded the 465,000 bushels on the same date a year ago by 195,000 bushels. Barley holdings amounted to 116,000 bushels compared with 176,000 a year ago, a drop of 60,000 bushels, and rye stocks totaled 38,000 bushels, or 19,000 more than a year earlier.

Stocks of old wheat in Pennsylvania interior mills, warehouses and elevators on July 1 totaled 500,000 bushels, or 100,000 more than were held a year earlier. This compares with 240,000 bushels July 1 average for the eight year period, 1935-42.

National wheat holdings in interior positions on July 1 of this year were reported to be slightly under 30 million bushels, lowest for that date since 1937, representing about 29 per cent of holdings a year earlier, and less than two-thirds of the 8-year average.

July 1944 was one of the driest Julys in 57 years of weather records in Pennsylvania.

MORE SWEET CORN ON DAILY DELIVERY

PENNSYLVANIA farmers are meeting a newly developed demand by their city cousins who have come to know the joys of corn-on-the-cob when served on the table the same day it is pulled from stalks in the field.

Farmers and growers of large acreages of sweet corn are out of bed at 3 A.M. and soon are out in the field pulling ears by the light of their tractor headlights. By daylight they are on their way to enterprising retail stores in the cities where customers eagerly buy and serve the ears while tender, juicy and sweet. Under most contracts the delivery deadline at the store is 11 A.M.

Started two years ago by a Philadelphia chain store, the daily delivery of freshly harvested Pennsylvania sweet corn has developed to such extent this season that the Bureau of Markets believes it will be an important marketing development in the post-war period and possibly expand to other perishable foods as consumer demands and transportation increase. All shipments must pass Federal-state inspections for grade and quality.

Illustrative of the expansion that has taken place in daily delivery of sweet corn this year, D. M. James, in charge of the fruit and vegetable division of the Bureau, tells of one grower near Philadelphia who increased his sweet corn acreage from little more than 50 last year to 500 acres this year.

"When sweet corn is removed from the stalk a chemical change takes place in less than one day," Mr. James explained. "Even under refrigeration the sugar changes to starch, the corn loses its natural sweetness, succulence and flavor. Retailers' stocks usually do not last long on daily delivered sweet corn. Consumers are 'wild' about it!"

CHICK PRODUCTION IS DOUBLED IN 5 YEARS

THE commercial hatchery industry in Pennsylvania has shown a material increase in both the number of hatcheries and the capacity to produce baby chicks since 1939, according to a Federal-State comparison of hatchery production for that year and 1943.

During the five-year period the number of commercial hatcheries in Pennsylvania grew from 592 to 636, and the capacity for hatching chicks increased from 18,909,000 to 23,744,000, the survey reveals.

The great advancement in the hatchery industry is best illustrated in the fact that the production of baby chicks last year was more than twice that of 1938. Five years ago 36,245,000 chicks were supplied farmers and commercial poultrymen, but by 1943 the output had increased to 77,271,000.

Observers say this immense production of baby chicks explains the month-by-month record breaking production of eggs in Pennsylvania that has prevailed for nearly two years. It also explains why Pennsylvania ranks third among all states of the Union in the value of its chickens and seventh in the number of eggs produced in 1943.

TWO MORE FAIRS

NOTICE of two additional community fairs to be held this season has been received. They are the Derry Township Community Fair, to be held September 21-23 at Derry, Dauphin County, and the Newton-Ransom Fair Association's annual fair, scheduled for September 27-30 in the Newton-Ransom High School, Clarks Summit, Lackawanna County. Definite notice has been received that the Mifflin Grange Fair, usually held at Newville, will not be conducted this year.

INSECTS SO THICK THEY STALL TRAINS ON ELECTRIC LINE

INSECT PESTS, in addition to cutting into wartime crop production on farms and in Victory gardens, have risen to plague transportation of food and other war necessities.

Swarms of May flies, sometimes called shad flies, became "so thick in the air they could be compared with a heavy snowfall" and brought minor delays by slowing down and even stopping some Pennsylvania Railroad electric freight trains in the lower Susquehanna River basin, it was learned when railroad officials sent an S.O.S. to the Department's Bureau of Plant Industry.

Nature takes two or three years to develop an adult May fly for a flight period of a few hours or a few days at most. So, like young Army or Navy pilots, when May flies get to flying solo, they make the most of it. The species involved has a wing spread of about half an inch, has a "transparent smoky" color, and like airplanes are nearly all wings, with two or three long, jointed, tail-like appendages.

There are more than 100 species of May flies in the United States, about 50 of which are found in Pennsylvania. The adult flies do no damage, for mouth parts are undeveloped and they can't eat; the females lay eggs and they all just fly, chiefly around bright lights. Their best excuse for living seems to be that they are a very valuable food for fish, a real delicacy for the finny tribe.

Huge electric engines pull long freight trains between Enola and Baltimore over the electrified "Old Port Road" of the P.R.R. The tracks parallel the Susquehanna east bank below Columbia, passing the big dams at Safe Harbor, Holtwood and Conowingo. Backwaters of the dams provide ideal may fly breeding spots.

Several days of 90-degree weather recently stepped up May fly hatching operations. Millions filled the air day and night, and for three days made life miserable for train crews along the river.

Electric locomotive headlights drew May flies like sugar attracts house flies. Crushed and battered, they piled up on engine roofs, lodging at the base of those queer-looking frames—pantographs—that serve as trolley poles. Gradually the insects covered the insulators. Then short circuits, "flash overs" and "kick-offs" of switches added to the worries of train crews as motors refused to function, trains slowed down or had to stop. A climax would come when circuit breakers went into action at substations, cutting the power temporarily from the train involved at the time.

"It was not serious, but mighty annoying and caused only minor delays in traffic," said Division Engineer D. W. Tyler, Baltimore, who phoned Dr. A. B. Champlain, Department entomologist, for advice when the May flies got too thick for comfort.

"We built fires along the river bank," Tyler continued. "The flies swarmed to the brighter lights and the numbers were reduced to such extent that we soon had little trouble.

"At some places dead insects filled the drainage ditches along the tracks to a depth of twelve inches or more, but for some reason they did not collect on rails or roadbed. Poles and trees were covered inches thick."

Railroad officials were glad to learn from Dr. Champlain that it might be three years before they are bothered again with swarming May flies of this particular species. The entomologist said motorists at times have reported driving through such storm-like swarms of the flies that they have had to stop because it was impossible to see the highway ahead.

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BUMPER CROP HOPES DASHED IN DRY, HOT WEATHER OF JULY

HIGH expectations of Pennsylvania farmers for bumper field crops this year crashed in an estimated loss of more than $16,000,000 due to the hot, dry weather of July, according to information given in the general crop report as of August 1, issued by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Dollar value losses are based on July 15 average prices received by farmers for corn, oats, potatoes, tobacco and hay, each of which showed a drop in production between July 1 and August 1.

In spite of these losses suffered during the month of July, total crop production for 1944, except for barley and hay, should greatly exceed that of last year when drought conditions prevailed from mid-June through September. Larger acreages for most field crops and better indicated yields per acre than last year, except for hay and buckwheat, are expected to bring larger harvests than in 1943. Timely rains August 2 and 7 refreshed rapidly deteriorating crops, especially in the southeast where the moisture shortage was most acute.

Between July 1 and August 1 corn appeared to be hit harder than any other field crop. Dry weather cut production nearly 7,000,000 bushels, which, at July 15 average prices, would be worth $10,135,500. As of August 1, corn was in urgent need of rain in most sections of the State. Southeast of the mountains many fields wilted and some sustained damage beyond recovery.

Tobacco was injured to such extent that estimated production fell 3,342,000 pounds. At 1943 average prices this amount would be valued at $621,600.

Potato prospects on July 1 were the most promising in years, but drought cut production by 1,650,000 bushels worth $2,887,500 on the basis of July 15 prices received by farmers which may be expected to drop when the late crop comes in.

Production of hay declined 109,000 tons worth $1.733,100 at the low average price which prevailed in July. Though the yield of oats dropped only 1 bushel per acre in July, it meant a reduction of 832,000 bushels worth $790.000.

Production Ahead of 1943

Even though last month was one of the driest Julys in 57 years of weather reports in Pennsylvania, and conditions sharply reduced prospects for corn, potatoes, and tobacco, indications as of August 1 were for harvests that exceed 1943 production by millions of bushels needed for the wartime food supply.

Increased yields per acre over last year are shown for all field crops except buckwheat and hay, and substantial increases in acreages for harvest of corn, wheat, oats and buckwheat are largely responsible for the bigger crops indicated for this year over last.

Corn production on August 1 was estimated at 54.522,000 bushels, or 5,350,000 more than 1943; yield per acre is 39 bushels, 1 more than last year; acreage was increased 8 per cent.

Winter wheat production of 20,108,000 bushels is 6,831,000 bushels greater than 1943; yield of 22 bushels per acre is 5 more than last year; acreage was increased 17 per cent.

Oats production for 1944 will total 24,128,000 bushels, or 9,250,000 more than 1943; yield per acre jumped from 19.5 to 29.0 bushels; acreage was increased 9 per cent.

Barley production this year will total 2.552,000 bushels which is only 198,000 under last year. There was a drop of 30 per cent in acreage but the yield of 29 bushels per acre is 7 above 1943.

Production of 666,000 bushels of rye is 42,000 greater than last year on 10 per cent less acreage, but a 15.5 bushel per acre yield is 2.5 more than in 1943.

Buckwheat production of 2,983,000 bushels is 475,000 over 1943; yield per acre is 19 bushels, the same as last year; acreage was increased 19 per cent.

Although potato acreage dropped 6 per cent, an average yield of 115 bushels per acre will bring production of 18,975,000 bushels, or 319,000 more than 1943; yield per acre last year was 106 bushels.

Hay acreage fell off 3 per cent, and yield per acre dropped from 1.52 to 1.40 tons, giving an estimated production of 3,053,000 tons, or 346,000 under 1943.

FRUIT PRODUCTION RANKS STATE HIGH

REPORTS on Pennsylvania fruit production as of August 1, issued by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service, show that a new all-time high record was established for cherries, a total of 10,600 tons.

The record crop ranks Pennsylvania seventh among all cherry producing states. It is 7,000 tons larger than last year's short crop and exceeds the 10-year average production from 1933 to 1942 by 2,860 tons.

The Pennsylvania commercial apple crop was indicated on August 1 at 10,400,000 bushels—about twice as large as the short crop last year, and fourth largest in the Nation. It is about the same size as the 1942 crop, and about 14 per cent larger than average.

The Keystone State peach crop of 1,909,000 bushels should rank the State eighth in production this year. It is 733,000 bushels larger than last year when production for all fruits was low, and is about 280,000 bushels more than the 10-year average.

In production of pears this year Pennsylvania will rank sixth with an estimated crop of 458,000 bushels, more than double that of last year but 100,000 bushels under the 10-year average.

Continuing dry and extremely hot weather is preventing apples, peaches and pears from attaining normal size, but according to reports from growers and consumers the quality of early Pennsylvania peaches has been high and the flavor excellent.

SAVE MILKWEED PODS TO MAKE LIFE BELTS

IN SUPPORT of the national campaign to obtain greatly needed milkweed floss to fill life belts for the Armed Forces, Secretary Horst urges Pennsylvania farmers to cooperate with school children and other gatherers by saving the plants and encouraging supervised picking when the pods ripen.

Pointing out that the collection of milkweed pods is vital to the war effort because kapok, the material ordinarily used to fill life jackets is no longer obtainable from Java, now held by the Japanese, the Secretary said the native floss is the best substitute available.

"This is one more way in which our farmers can aid the war effort," he declared. "All that is needed is to allow patches of milkweed to come to maturity in late August and early September.

"Arrangements are being made for state-wide gathering of the pods. Farm children and town and city children alike will be organized for the harvest, and others will be urged to cooperate. Public school superintendents, supervising principals, and teachers and supervisors of vocational agriculture are prepared to organize groups, the Department of Public Instruction reports."

G. Harry Bowen, of State College, is State director of the milkweed seed-pod program. He will provide information on organization of local school and other harvesting groups, and on packing, shipment, and payment at the rate of 20 cents per bag containing approximately one bushel, or five pounds of dried pods.

JULY MILK AND EGGS SHOW SEASONAL DROP BUT ARE AHEAD OF '43

MILK production on Pennsylvania farms during July totaled 446 million pounds, which was 6 per cent below production for June but 2 per cent above July a year ago, the monthly dairy report of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service reveals.

The showing of July was attained in spite of a decline of 24 points from normal in the condition of pastures during the month.

In most of the eastern part of the State pastures supplied relatively little in the way of feed due to lack of rainfall and the dry, hot weather of July. In some instances farmers were feeding hay and grain rations as heavy as they ordinarily do in the Winter months.

The increase over July 1943 is the first time in more than a year that monthly milk production in Pennsylvania has equaled or exceeded that for the same month of the previous year, with the exception of last February when the 29-day leap year month gave dairymen an opportunity to exceed their production for the 28-day February of 1943.

For the United States as a whole, July milk production was estimated at 11.6 billion pounds or about 1 per cent less than the same month last year. The percentage of milk cows reported being milked continued below average in all regions. Pennsylvania was among eight States recording June increases of 3 per cent in the number of milk cows on farms.

Eggs Down 2.7 Million

Producing 219 million eggs during the month of July, Pennsylvania farm flocks once more established a new high record for that month, exceeding production for July 1943 by 8 million eggs, according to a Federal-State chicken and egg report for the month.

Egg production in Pennsylvania for July was 27 million less than for June, chiefly because there was a reduction of 840.000 or 5.5 per cent in the number of layers.

By the end of July the seasonal decline since January 1 in the number of hens and pullets on Pennsylvania farms amounted to 27 per cent. Egg production, which started seasonally downward in May, declined 30 per cent since April and showed an 11 per cent drop from June.

Compared with July a year ago, commercial poultrymen were receiving this July 12 per cent less for eggs and paying 16 per cent more per hundredweight for feed. The average price received during the month was 38.6 cents per dozen, an advance of almost 7 cents over the average for June.

For the first time since November 1942, the average price reported paid by commercial poultrymen for laying mash showed a decline of 4 cents in July to $3.76 per hundred pounds. Scratch feed dropped 5 cents to $3.12 per hundred weight.

The egg-feed ratio dropped from 132 in June to 107 in July, this being the number of eggs required to pay for 100 pounds of feed.

BEANS REDUCED

ALTHOUGH the 6,200 acres planted this year for the growing of snap beans for canning is 800 more than harvested last year, July's hot and dry weather reduced the yield per acre. The August 1 estimate on production was 8.100 tons, or 1,600 tons less than 1943. However, 1944 production is expected to exceed the 10-year average, 1933-42, by 4,200 tons.

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EGG PRODUCTION TO DROP BUT THERE IS TO BE NO SHORTAGE

PRODUCTION of eggs on Pennsylvania farms is due for a drop this Fall and Winter according to comment of observers on the latest report on hatchery production of baby chicks in the State, issued by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

The expected decline, which will be the result of farmers and poultrymen voluntarily reducing the size of their flocks to avoid another surplus such as that which occurred last Spring, will not cause a shortage of eggs in the coming year, in the opinion of Department representatives.

The Bureau of Markets reports that many farmers and poultrymen have been culling poor layers from their flocks all Summer, saving only the higher producing birds.

During the month of July few Pennsylvania hatcheries were in operation, and the number of chicks hatched dropped more than 3 million below the July record of 5,687,000 hatched in that month last year. From January to July inclusive, there was a decline of more than 9,280,000 in the number of chicks hatched, compared with the same period of 1943.

Eggs set by hatcheries during July totaled 3,618,000 which was less than half the number set in the same month of 1943. The January-July set was more than 15 million below the number set for the same period last year.

Chick orders on hand at hatcheries on August 1 totaled less than two-thirds the number on order at the same time last year, including chicks for Fall delivery.

Turkey poults were in strong demand during July, at good prices.

EXPECT BEST HONEY CROP IN THREE YEARS

PROSPECTS for the best Pennsylvania honey crop in three years are in sight for 1944, according to a Federal-State survey. While no production estimates have yet been made for this year, the increase that is in the offing will make a valuabe contribution to the war effort, particularly in beeswax which is necessary in the manufacture of airplanes and munitions.

Last year Pennsylvania honey was out in front by a wide margin among farm food products to show an increase over the previous year.

The survey of honey prospects, made as of July 1, showed a 4 per cent increase in the number of colonies of bees this year over last. In addition, the condition of the colonies was rated by beekeepers as 94 per cent of normal compared with 87 per cent at the same time a year ago.

More small beekeepers are going out of business as the large commercial apiaries continue to expand, the report declares. There has been an increase of 21,000 in the number of colonies in the State since 1941, now totaling 191,000, which is 7,000 more than last year. Although 13,000 colonies were lost last Winter and Spring, the bees are said to have wintered better than in any year since 1941. New Spring colonies totaled 19,000.

Beekeepers report it was a little too wet for bees to work during the fruit blooming period and too dry in some localities when clover was in bloom. Nectar from sumac, goldenrod, basswood, and milkweed was abundant in most sections of the State. Honey flow, slow in starting, picked up as the season advanced until retarded by the dry weather of July.

Only 306 out of nearly 40,000 cattle given tuberculin tests in the State during July proved to be reactors. In the same month over 3,000 cattle were imported and 167 exported.

WAVE OF RABIES BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL BY AID OF DOG OWNERS, LOCAL OFFICIALS

UNLESS dog owners continue to keep their animals from running at large for the remainder of this year as they have for the past two months, 1944 might go down on the records as Pennsylvania's worst year in history in the number of positive cases of rabies reported by the Bureau of Animal Industry.

Up to August 15 a total of 693 positive cases of rabies had been reported since January 1. This was 178 more than the 515 reported last year by the same date. According to Dr. C. P. Bishop, director of the Bureau, last year's total of 826 cases was the greatest ever known in the State.

"It is a pleasure to report that the epidemic of rabies which prevailed in Western Pennsylvania counties from February through May has been brought under full control," he declared. "Quarantines were established through the cooperative efforts of police and health officers in more than 50 communities. Most dog owners cooperated by heeding our warnings to keep dogs under control at all times. Those who persisted in allowing their dogs to run at large were prosecuted."

Heaviest rabies months this year were March with 123, April with 112 and May with 123 positive cases reported. They tapered off to 85 in June and 73 in July, with only 27 reported for the first half of August, exploding the popular belief that more dogs go "mad" in mid-Summer than any other season of the year. In each of these months this year the cases have been fewer than for the same months last year, the Bureau chief said.

More Dogs Abandoned

"We believe the Winter and Spring rabies increases this year are due largely to a greater abandonment of dogs, and carelessness on the part of owners in permitting their dogs to run at large," he continued. "Local police officers and our field agents killed 16,803 unlicensed, unaccompanied dogs between January 1 and August 1 this year, or 887 more than for the same period last year. The average is about 2,400 a month, but in May of this year 3,452 were killed.

"Cooperation in control was obtained largely through the display of 3,000 copies of a new poster carrying a notice to dog owners, placed in post offices and other public buildings in quarantined areas.

"Dog owners generally have heeded this Bureau message which points to the serious menace to life and property when dogs are permitted to run at large. It urges owners to keep their dogs under control at all times because chief spreaders of the disease are stray or ownerless dogs and those owners who permit their dogs to run at large.

"To control the spread of rabies each and every dog should be securely confined or restricted on the premises of the owner or keeper at all times, except when being led under proper restraint, or when properly muzzled to prevent biting, or when accompanied by the owner or keeper. Cooperation this year has been most gratifying."

While the 693 cases of rabies recorded thus far this year include 612 dogs, various other animals that contracted the disease were 19 cats, 41 cattle, 3 swine, 16 sheep, one fox and one zebu. With the exception of the fox and the zebu these numbers are approximately the same as for last year.

Zebu Bull Had Rabies

Believed to have been bitten by an infected rat, a bull zebu, of the hump-backed cattle family common in India, China and the East Indies, recently was killed in its cage at the Highland Park Zoo, Pittsburgh when it became ferocious and unruly over night. Examination of its brain disclosed that the animal had developed rabies. The rodent theory is advanced in view of the fact that the animal was kept constantly in its enclosure at the zoo where no dogs could have attacked it. The mate is under a 100-day quarantine.

Dr. Bishop, who is president of the National Assembly of Chief Livestock Sanitary Officers, gave a report of the case at the annual meeting of the group held recently in Chicago.

PENN'A STILL FIRST ICE CREAM STATE

PENNSYLVANIA maintained in 1943 its position as the leading State in the Nation in production of ice cream with a total of 48,359,000 gallons, or enough to provide each man, woman and child in the State with approximately 20 quarts, according to a preliminary report on dairy products manufactured last year, prepared by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Internal Affairs.

Although last year's ice cream production in this State was nearly 6 million gallons under the all-time 1942 record of 54,256,000 gallons, it was offset in part by a 1,305 per cent increase in the manufacture of sherbets for the first full year that government restrictions on ice cream manufacturing were in operation. In 1942 sherbets totaled only 241,000 gallons, but 3,386,000 gallons were manufactured in 1943.

There was a substantial increase in the amount of ice cream manufactured for direct retail sale, the 3,277,000 gallons made for this purpose being half a million gallons more than the year previous. Wholesale manufactures dropped nearly 6,400,000 gallons to a total of slightly more than 45 million gallons.

Pennsylvania has ranked first in ice cream manufacture continuously since 1939. Last year New York ranked second and California third.

Production of creamery butter in Pennsylvania during 1943 totaled 12,186,000 pounds compared with 13,946,000 pounds manufactured in 1942. Nationally, butter production dropped to the lowest level since 1937.

6 MILLION FEWER CHICKENS RAISED

THE number of chickens raised on Pennsylvania farms in 1944 dropped more than 6 million, or 15 per cent below the 1943 record, but was 22 per cent greater than the average for the 10-year period, 1933 to 1942, a recent Federal-State survey discloses.

Preliminary estimates for this year show a total of 34,808,000 chickens raised on farms compared with approximately 41 million last year.

There has been a rapid increase in the number of farm chickens since 1940 when about 26,500,000 were raised. In the following year this number was increased by more than 3 million and roughly 2 million more were raised in 1942 than in 1941. The greatest increase came last year when more than 9 million additional chickens were raised compared with the previous year.

Principal factors influencing the decline for 1944 include last Spring's over-supply of eggs, increased costs for feed, and lower prices received by farmers for eggs, observers say.

1944 WOOL CLIP

WOOL production this year from Pennsylvania sheep totaled 2,498,000 pounds, which was 74,000 less than last year when 10,000 more sheep were sheared.

The clip averaged 7.5 pounds of wool per sheep, the same as last year and the average for the 10-year period, 1933-1942. The total clip was approximately 400,000 pounds under the 10-year average. A total of 333,000 sheep were shorn this year compared with 343,000 last year and the 10-year average of 386,000.

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YEAR'S ACTIVITIES IN JAP BEETLE CONTROL SHOW GOOD RESULTS

RESULTS of the 1944 Japanese beetle control program were summarized recently by Dr. Thomas L. Guyton, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry. They include:

1. Observations this year in York County have shown fairly extensive killing of Jap beetles by a predatory native insect known as the "wheel bug" which lives on other insects. The wheel bug is so named because of the wheel-like shape of the middle part of its body. It is about three-fourths of an inch long, dark in color, and has a long tube-like sucking beak with which it pierces tender parts of the Jap beetle, draining it and leaving it to die. The bug is generally distributed over southern Pennsylvania and does not harm plants.

2. No Jap beetles had appeared by late August in 300 traps set in previously beetle free areas of Erie, Crawford and Mercer Counties, indicating that a relatively small segment of the State still has not been bothered with the pests.

3. Each of the six colonies of 400 female Tiphia wasps set free on the outskirts of Camp Hill, Selinsgrove, Sunbury, Williamsport, Ligonier and Laughlintown is expected to develop normally. For each wasp liberated there should be several hundred females to lay 400 to 500 eggs on as many beetle grubs next spring, the wasp grub devouring the beetle grub under ground.

4. Distribution of 400 pounds of milky disease has been completed in grassy areas in the heavily infested sections, mostly the western part of York County. The remaining 40 pounds will be forced into the ground during September on golf courses and parks at Williamsport, Lebanon, Mount Carmel, Shamokin, Lock Haven and Freeport.

Quarantine Removal

5. Removal of Jap beetle quarantine restrictions for this year has been set for Friday, September 8 for movement of fruit and vegteables and Saturday, September 30 for movement of cut flowers from the quarantine section covering the heavily infested area which lies south and east of Harrisburg. These dates are about two weeks in advance of other years due to earlier appearance of the beetles and their rapid, hot weather development. The quarantine period started June 26. However, quarantine restrictions remain in effect throughout the year on the movement of nursery stock, soil, sand and similar materials which might contain beetle eggs and grubs.

PULLET EGGS OFFER CONSUMER BARGAIN

OPPORTUNITY for housewives to buy fresh eggs at greatly reduced prices through asking for "pullet eggs" is disclosed by E. J. Lawless, Jr., Bureau of Markets.

It is pointed out that the current average price for pullet eggs is now between 28 and 30 cents per dozen, and in nutrition value they are, at those prices, the equivalent of large eggs at 40 cents per dozen.

Large eggs average 24 ounces by weight per dozen, Mr. Lawless explained. Pullet eggs average 18 ounces, and at 40 and 30 cents a dozen respectively, each type of egg is worth 27 cents per pound.

Most large eggs now cost 50 or more cents a dozen. For those who pay as high as 60 cents for extra large, top grade, inspected eggs, five cents buys either one large egg, the average weight of which is two ounces, or it will buy two pullet eggs, the average weight of which is 3 ounces.

Pullet eggs are now in great supply on the market, and in a few weeks, as the young layers increase in size, "medium-sized" eggs will come into heavy supply.

'44 TURKEY CROP TO BREAK ALL RECORDS

MORE Pennsylvania turkeys will be available for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners this year than ever before, E. L. Gasteiger, Agricultural Statistician, Federal-State Crop Reporting Service, revealed in an initial survey of holiday bird flocks.

"Present indications are for a 1944 Pennsylvania turkey crop of 1,285,000 birds, or 20 per cent more than last year," he said. "This would be the largest turkey crop in the State's history and the third year in succession that it has exceeded a million birds."

This record crop will be produced despite the following adverse factors:

1. Price ceilings which growers consider too low compared with price of feed, the supply of which is uncertain;
2. Restrictions on sales last year due to the embargo on sales to other than government agencies while turkeys were being collected for holiday dinners for members of the Armed Forces, restrictions which do not apply in Pennsylvania this year;
3. A shortage of help; and
4. The high price farmers had to pay for poults.

"However," Mr. Gasteiger continued, "the supply of poults was good compared with last year, and the demand continued strong during the spring and early summer. Though feed is reported of inferior quality, which is supposed to be conducive to leg weakness, poults are generally reported to be doing well."

Nationally, growers will raise a record number of turkeys this year, a total estimated at 35,666,000 birds, or 8 per cent more than last year and 4 per cent above the previous record crop of 1940, according to preliminary estimates.

GYPSY MOTH FOUND IN NEW LOCATIONS

THROUGH the use of 7,000 special traps scattered over 72 townships in 10 counties in the northeastern section of Pennsylvania, it has been learned that the dreaded gypsy moth spread this summer to a limited degree into 16 townships outside of the present lines of the quarantine area.

In seven of the townships the trapping served as a check on territory that once was within the quarantine area but was thought to have been cleared of gypsy moth infestation through control work by the State and Federal Departments of Agriculture. The remaining nine townships, all in the southern half of Wayne County, had not previously been invaded by the pest.

According to Dr. Thomas L. Guyton, director, Bureau of Plant Industry, in charge of the State's activities in control work, male moths were trapped in one township formerly under quarantine in Lackawanna County, three townships in Luzerne County, two in Monroe County and one in Wayne County. While a grand total of only 50 moths had been trapped between July 1 and August 15, he said that control efforts next season would be expanded to include the newly infested areas and any others that might be found when a final check-up is made on the trapping.

Most encouraging on trapping results to date is the fact that no moths have been found in the Susquehanna River valley through Wyoming and Bradford Counties outside of the quarantine area which extends over parts of Luzerne, Lackawanna and Carbon Counties.

Dr. Guyton is of the opinion that moths were trapped outside the quarantine area this year because of the unusually large survival of egg masses last winter. Gypsy moth caterpillars were more plentiful this year than for several years past in the quarantine area. No moths have been caught to date in traps set in Lehigh, Carbon, Northampton, Wyoming or Bradford Counties.

SOUTH SEA G.I.'S ARE INFORMED ON STATE AGRICULTURE

PENNSYLVANIA agriculture was the subject of what apparently was a prolonged discussion by a group of U. S. Army G. I.'s while awaiting the next H-Hour in a South Sea island jungle, according to the following letter received recently by Miles Horst, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture:

"We are a bunch of soldiers stationed in New Guinea," wrote Pfc. M. S. Brown, "and for the past few hours we have been arguing a point on which I think your Department can give us the right answer.

"Our argument is: Can Pennsylvania raise enough crops to feed the population of the same State if it ever had to do so? Also, is Pennsylvania one of the leading wheat states in the Union? We certainly would appreciate an answer from you."

In his reply Secretary Horst said:

"We were very glad to receive your V-mail letter and to know that Pennsylvania agriculture proved to be such an interesting topic of conversation out there in the South Seas.

"Although Pennsylvania generally is regarded as an industrial state, the value of our agricultural products for 1943 was sufficient to rank the State fourteenth among all the states. However, except for a few products, our farms at present do not produce enough food to feed our total population of approximately 10,000,000 on the basis of 1943 per capita consumption estimates of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

"Pennsylvania could be in a very critical position with regard to supplies of food. Within our borders live 1/13 of the population of the Nation. If we were to produce all the dairy products we consume, it would be necessary to double the number of dairy cows on our farms. Our milk production last year was nearly five billion pounds, which would be just about enough to meet fluid or fresh milk demands, but if all of it were used for that purpose we would have none left for butter, ice cream, cheese, canned milk or other dairy products.

"For meats, Pennsylvania citizens must depend upon sources other than our farms for more than five-sixths of our requirements of over one and one-third billion pounds. We must look to other states for about four-fifths of our butter and about one-half of our wheat products.

"On the other hand, Pennsylvania leads all others in the manufacture of ice cream with nearly 55,000,000 gallons in 1942, two and a half times the amount that is consumed, on the average; we produced almost enough eggs to meet all requirements (more than 2½ billion last year); enough potatoes to feed our population if we consumed all we produced, and more than enough corn to meet civilian food demands, but not nearly enough to meet livestock and poultry feeding requirements.

"Pennsylvania commercial orchards this year will produce about one and a half times as many apples as its citizens would consume ordinarily, but, like most of our vegetable crops, 60 to 70 per cent this year will be canned for use by members of the Armed Forces.

"As to Pennsylvania wheat production, the State in 1942 ranked tenth among all states in amount of winter wheat harvested, and 15th in the value of that type of wheat; in 1943 it ranked 11th in production and 12th in value. For all wheat (winter and spring) the State in 1942 ranked 15th in production and 11th in value; in 1943 it was 16th in both production and value, due to unsatisfactory weather conditions.

"We grow more wheat to the acre than does Oklahoma or Kansas, the principal wheat states, and this year will produce close to 20 million bushels to rank about 13th, according to July 1 indications."

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AFTER FOUR MONTHS D.D.T. TREATMENT REMAINS EFFECTIVE

FOUR MONTHS after a 20-acre woodland tract in the gypsy moth infested area of Lackawanna County had been sprayed by airplane with the new insecticide D.D.T., the entire tract is still as free of gypsy moths, mosquitoes, flies and other ordinary insects as it was early in July when first reports declared no insect life existed two months after treatment.

"Results have been nothing short of amazing," declared Dr. Thomas L. Guyton, director, Bureau of Plant Industry, in making a preliminary report on the entire 1944 gypsy moth control program in the northeastern section of the State. It is there that cooperative efforts of the State and Federal Departments of Agriculture in the past 12 years have partly destroyed and effectively prevented spread of the pest over the State.

Not a single gypsy moth worm has been found all summer in the isolated demonstration plot even though there are plenty in the general area, Dr. Guyton reported. The same holds true for two smaller tracts that were sprayed with D.D.T. by ground crews with power pumps.

"There is no question now about complete eradication of gypsy moth from Pennsylvania," he added. "As soon as sufficient D.D.T. and labor can be obtained after the war it won't take long to get rid of the pest which to date has cost the State and Federal governments nearly $5,000,000 in control work alone."

Two airplanes were used in the gypsy moth program this summer. Between May 3 and June 20 they sprayed 1,500 acres with cryolite, best known insecticide for this purpose before the use of D.D.T. was discovered in 1939 by a Swiss scientist from a formula made by a German and forgotten for nearly 70 years. Whereas only 5 pounds of D.D.T. per acre were required for perfect control of gypsy moth, 54 pounds of cryolite are required to give partial control when applied by airplane.

Ground spray crews, working during the same period as the airplanes, covered 300 acres using Cryolite at the rate of 9 pounds per hundred gallons of water, and an additional 300 acres with lead arsenate, 5 pounds per hundred gallons. Approximately 980 properties in 7 towns and villages in the infested area were sprayed this year by ground crews.

TIMOTHY SEED

ALTHOUGH National production of timothy seed this year is 18 per cent under last, Pennsylvania farmers harvested more than a million pounds which is approximately 200,000 pounds more than produced in 1943.

Federal-State estimates show that 24,000 bushels of timothy seed has been produced on Pennsylvania farms this year compared with 19,600 last year. The crop came from 8,500 acres with a yield per acre of 2.85 bushels. Last year 7,000 acres were harvested with a yield of 2.80 bushels.

For the United States as a whole, current supplies of timothy seed, including production and carry over, are about 5 per cent less than 1943 but approximately 17 per cent larger than the 4-year average, 1939 to 1942.

MEAT CONDEMNED

THE Bureau of Animal Industry reports two additional slaughter houses closed during August by the division of meat hygiene, making a total of 17 such establishments closed since January 1 of this year due to insanitary conditions found by inspectors. More than 41,000 animals were slaughtered under State inspection during August. Of this total, 113 were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

DROUGHT DAMAGES REPORTED SERIOUS

POTATOES and tomatoes appear to have suffered most in the prolonged dry, hot weather that prevailed during late August and early September.

The weekly weather and crop report of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service, for the week ending August 29 referred to the 1944 potato crop as "short," with many tubers running small in most sections of the State except Potter County. Prospects appeared to be good in Potter but rain was needed there as in all potato growing sections of the State.

The report for the week ended September 5 showed further reductions in tomato and potato yields due to lack of rainfall. Many fields of potatoes then being dug were showing only half a crop or less. However, some well-sprayed late plantings were still green and would be helped greatly by good rains. The potato crop was reduced more than 1,600,000 bushels by drought conditions during the month of July alone.

A truck crop report covering the latter half of August showed serious losses in production of commercial vegetables due to the continued dry weather. Rainfall for the period averaged three-fourth of normal for the State but less than half of normal in the East, where only irrigated crops showed promise of being up to expectations. At that time the market tomato crop harvest had just passed its peak but supplies should continue plentiful through September. In the western counties, losses from dry rot were reported to be heavy. Late crops in the southeast were not setting fruit very heavily, and canning crop yields were disappointing.

Best reports from the entire vegetable field were for sweet corn. Harvesting of a good crop was then nearly over. Yields were high and markets became glutted. Late plantings in the southeast turned out poor due to continued hot, dry weather. Some of these fields were expected to yield only a quarter to one-half of a normal crop.

Potato crop indications on August 1 were for a total production of slightly under 19 million bushels, sufficient to rank Pennsylvania seventh among all the states, an advance of two places over its rank last year.

GRAPE PRODUCTION PROSPECTS GOOD

PROSPECTS for the 1944 grape crop in Pennsylvania are such that produstion is expected to exceed that of last year by 5,500 tons, according to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

The outlook for an exceptionally good crop in Erie County, principal grape growing section in the State, is such that Pennsylvania this year should rank as one of the five largest grape growing States in the Nation.

State production on August 1 was estmiated at 20,800 tons which is approximately 3,000 tons more than the 10-year average, 1933-42. The only States that will surpass Pennsylvania are California, New York, Michigan and Ohio. Nationally, the 1944 grape crop promises to be the second largest on record, being exceeded only by the crop of 1943.

DISEASE CONTROL

TESTS for the presence of Bang Disease were given during August to nearly 45,000 cattle in approximately 4,000 herds on Pennsylvania farms, the Bureau of Animal Industry reports. Testers found that slightly more than 1,500 cattle in nearly 600 herds gave positive reaction, showing presence of the disease. The records show that 15.1 per cent of the herds and 3.3 per cent of the cattle under test during the moth were infected.

POTATO PRICE RISE OFFSETS DECLINES IN PRICES RECEIVED

A CONTINUING decline in prices received by Pennsylvania farmers for grains, hay, and fruit was more than offset by an advance in potatoes as more of the new crop of early tubers became available during the month ended August 15, according to a Federal-State Crop Reporting Service survey on prices received during that period.

As a result, the index of prices received by farmers for principal agricultural products increased 7 points for the month, reaching 206 on the basis of 100 for average prices received during the period 1909-1914.

While the index of prices that farmers pay for goods and services remained at 170 for the third consecutive month, the purchasing power of the farmer's dollar, on the basis of its being worth 100 cents, 1909-1914 average, advanced four cents to $1.21 since the July 15 survey. Following are price comparisons:

	Aug. 15 1943	July 15 1944	Aug. 15 1944
Wheat, Bu.	$1.45	$1.51	$1.45
Corn, Bu.	1.19	1.45	1.45
Oats, Bu.	.77	.95	.84
Barley, Bu.	1.06	1.27	1.26
Rye, Bu.	1.04	1.24	1.22
Buckwheat, Bu.	1.19	1.42	1.39
Soybeans, Bu.	1.90	1.90	1.90
Potatoes, Bu.	1.80	1.75	2.10
Hay, loose, Ton	13.50	15.90	15.70
Apples, Bu.	2.05	2.30	2.15
Hogs, Cwt.	14.20	13.20	13.80
Beef Cattle, Cwt.	14.10	13.20	13.10
Veal Calves, Cwt.	16.60	15.10	15.10
Sheep, Cwt.	6.20	5.30	5.00
Lambs, Cwt.	13.40	13.40	13.00
Milk cows, Head	153.00	153.99	153.00
Horses, Head	139.00	130.00	125.00
Mules, Head	141.00	135.00	135.00
Chickens, Lb.	.291	.274	.271
Turkeys, Lb.	.37	.360	.360
Milk, whsle, Cwt.	3.45	3.50	3.55
Milk, retail, Qt.	.142	.143	.143
Butter, Lb.	.49	.48	.48
Butterfat, Lb.	.49	.49	.49
Eggs, Doz.	.452	.348	.397
Wool, Lb.	.45	.45	.43

45 MILLION POUND TOBACCO CROP SEEN

MORE cigars made from Lancaster County Seedleaf tobacco are in sight from this year's crop than last year. Latest reports indicate production of more than 47 million pounds, or approximately 7,700,000 pounds more than the 1943 crop. Growth in many late planted fields was held back by dry weather and small plants are in danger of being caught by early frosts, according to a Federal-State Survey.

Seedleaf tobacco is being grown on 33,300 acres this year, which is 1,900 more than in 1943. The indicated yield of 1,420 pounds per acre is 160 pounds higher than last year.

Estimated production of Pennsylvania Havana Seed tobacco this year is 450,000 pounds, the same as for last year. This crop is being grown on 300 acres, the same as in 1943, and yield per acre is estimated at 1,550 pounds, also identical with last year.

Holdings of Pennsylvania Seedleaf tobacco on July 1 totaled 99,767,000 pounds, in the hands of dealers, manufacturers, warehousemen, and other owners except the original growers and some manufacturers. The total compares with 108,044,000 pounds reported on April 1 and 108,425,000 pounds on July 1, 1943. Holdings of Pennsylvania Havana Seed tobacco totaled 2,197,000 pounds compared with 2,143,000 pounds a year earlier.

MORE WHEAT

PENNSYLVANIA farmers this year grew more wheat per acre than the two largest winter wheat producing states in the United States. The average Pennsylvania yield is estimated at 21 bushels per acre compared with 18.5 in Oklahoma and 17.5 in Kansas.

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Miles Horst, Secretary of Agriculture

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HOT, DRY AUGUST WEATHER FURTHER CUTS PRODUCTION OF PENNSYLVANIA FARM CROPS

CONTINUED hot, dry weather further reduced prospects for corn, buckwheat, potatoes, and fruits during August according to the Pennsylvania general crop report on conditions as of September 1, issued by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. Compared with the outlook on August 1, tobacco was the only field crop to show a gain for the month.

Corn was hit most severely. Dry weather of July had reduced the crop prospects by nearly 7 million bushels. August weather took a further estimated toll of approximately 2,800,000 bushels. July 1 indications had been for a corn crop of slightly more than 61,500,000 but by September 1 the production estimate had shrunk to 51,726,000 bushels. Corn prospects declined to half a crop or less in many fields.

Potatoes suffered an estimated loss of 1,155,000 bushels from August 1 to September 1, total production indicated on the latter date being 17,820,000 bushels. Many fields died prematurely. July 1 indications were for a crop of more than 20,600,000 bushels.

Buckwheat dropped 157,000 bushels during the month, to a September 1 estimate of 2,826,000 bushels. Oats suffered a loss of about 400,000 bushels, the total crop as of September 1 being estimated at 23,712,000 bushels. Barley dropped only 88,000 bushels to 2,464,000 bushels.

Although dry weather reduced the size of stalk and leaf in some fields, tobacco production per acre during August increased almost 70 pounds per acre for an estimated crop of 47,736,000 pounds as of September 1, an increase of 2,316,000 pounds over August 1 estimates. Production of hay is estimated at 3,053,000 tons the same as indicated August 1.

The corn crop is still approximately 2,500,000 bushels ahead of last year; oats is close to 9,000,000 bushels more; barley is 286,000 bushels less; buckwheat is 318,000 bushels ahead; tobacco is 7,722,000 pounds ahead; but potato production is 836,000 bushels under 1943 production.

$25,000,000 Loss in Two Months

Drought losses on Pennsylvania farms between July 1 and September 1 aggregated more than $25,000,000, according to Department estimates based on the average prices received by farmers as of August 15 and the further declines in production reported as of September 1 by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. July losses were estimated at $16,000,000 and those for August at about $9,000,000.

During July the corn losses were estimated at more than $10,000,000. By September 1 the estimated yield dropped 2 bushels per acre for a loss of about 2,800,000 bushels worth more than $4,000,000.

July 1 prospects for potatoes were the brightest in years. State average yield per acre was estimated then at 125 bushels, 4 more than the 10-year average, 1933-1942. By August 1 it had dropped to 115 bushels for a loss valued at nearly $2,900,000, and by September 1 the acre yield was only 108 bushels, indicating a further loss of $2,425,000 at August 15 prices, making a total loss to date of over $5,300,000.

August weather cut the size of commercial apples, brought on an unusually heavy drop, and the loss for the month was 1,300,000 bushels valued at approximately $2,000,000. Prior to August 1 the apple crop was counted one of the best in years, estimated at 10,400,000 bushels. Peaches declined 46,000 bushels worth over $100,000.

An estimated loss of $200,000 in buckwheat was more than offset by gains in tobacco which received timely showers. Threshing of oats and barley revealed further drops in yields per acre, giving losses estimated at approximately $350,000 for oats and $110,000 for barley.

Apple Crop is Average

Although dry weather reduced the Pennsylvania commercial apple crop by an estimated 1,300,000 bushels during August, the harvest should bring a crop a little better than the average for the 9-year period, 1934-1942.

This year's crop, now estimated at 9,100,000 bushels, is a decrease of 12.5 per cent from the August 1 forecast but is still 79 per cent more than the short crop of 1943 when only 5,070,000 bushels were harvested. The 9-year average production was 9,086,000 bushels.

According to September 1 indications, Keystone commercial apple production for this year will rank the State fourth among all apple-producing states in the country. Washington is the largest producer with over 29 million bushels forecast, New York second with more than 17 million bushels and Virginia third with 13,500,000 bushels.

The condition of the Pennsylvania crop on September 1 was given as 65 per cent of normal compared with 46 per cent a year earlier.

Production of apples in commercial areas of the United States is indicated by September 1 conditions to be 38 per cent greater than the short crop of 1943 and about the same as the 9-year average.

Peach Crop Shrinks Slightly

Pennsylvania's 1944 peach crop of 1,863,000 bushels is 58 per cent above last year and 14 per cent above the 10-year average, 1933-1942. The condition of the crop on Sept. 1 was reported to be 79 per cent of normal compared with 80 per cent on August 1. A decline of 46,000 bushels was indicated between August 1 and September 1 due to dry weather which prevented the fruit from attaining normal size.

This year's peach crop compares with 1,176,000 bushels harvested in 1943 and 1,628,000 bushels for the 10-year average. This year's crop should make Pennsylvania the largest peach producing State in the northeast group.

The National 1944 peach crop is estimated to be 71 per cent larger than in 1943 and 25 per cent above the 10-year average.

More Pears This Year

There was a slight increase in the indicated production of pears on Pennsylvania farms on September 1 compared with the August 1 forecast. The estimate of 470,000 bushels was 12,000 more than indicated a month earlier, and nearly 300,000 bushels greater than the short crop of 1943. However, production this year is below the 10-year average production of 558,000 bushels, 1933 to 1942. National production this year is estimated to be 19 per cent larger than in 1943.

CALL ATTENTION TO STATE BEVERAGE LAW

AGENTS of the Bureau of Foods and Chemistry are making a special effort during the current county and community fair and carnival season to protect the public by checking on the regulations of all carbonated beverages and still drinks offered for sale at such public gatherings.

The Department calls attention to Pennsylvania laws which require that all carbonated or still drinks offered for sale in the State must be registered with the Department, which issues a license for which a fee of $50 is required. This license must be obtained by all vendors whether they operate for a week or a year and is renewable each year.

In Pennsylvania it is unlawful to offer for sale carbonated beverages and still drinks at or adjacent to fairgrounds, carnivals, circus grounds, parks, resorts, and all other places within the State unless certain regulations are observed.

If artifically colored or flavored drinks are offered for sale, a sign to that effect must be prominently displayed by the vendor. The law does not permit the sale of drinks mixed in tin, galvanized iron or wood pails, tubs or barrels, or when offered from bulk which has been kept cool by the addition of ice.

EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WANT PENN'A CATTLE, POULTRY AFTER WAR

RUSSIA will need 1,500,000 disease-free dairy and beef cattle for replacements after the war, according to a delegation of Russian veterinarians on an inspection visit to the laboratories of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Animal Industry. They will look to America for the bulk of such replacements, they told Dr. C. P. Bishop, bureau director.

At the same time it was learned that a group of officials representing the Netherlands government had contacted the Department's Bureau of Markets, division of eggs and poultry, to make arrangements for the purchase and shipment of the earliest opportunity of thousands of baby chicks. These are to be used to enable farmers and poultrymen of that war-torn country to rehabilitate their flocks or start anew. E. J. Lawless, Jr., in charge of the division, said that the Bureau of Markets will cooperate with Netherlands officials in obtaining chicks from Pennsylvania hatcheries.

Dr. Bishop reported that a goal of 100,000 bred dairy heifers for European countries has been established by the Men's Brotherhood of the Church of the Brethren. A large number of Lancaster County farmers, members of the national group, already have set aside some of their purebred animals as gifts to the farmers of occupied countries after the war.

Members of the Russian delegation were Drs. N. O. Zlotnikoff, K. A. Khloustzov and P. G. Fedorishev, the latter two being professors in the USSR veterinary school. They were interested primarily in the Pennsylvania program of control of brucellosis, or Bang disease, which last year cost over $800,000 in State and Federal indemnities to Pennsylvania farmers for condemned cattle. The Pennsylvania program of control and eradication is regarded as outstanding among the states and is known throughout the world.

After viewing laboratory tests and methods, the group observed Bang disease eradication work at the Hershey Estate farms at Hershey and on various farms in Susquehanna County.

DROUGHT TAKES BIG TOLL OF VEGETABLES

HOW drought took a toll of thousands of tons of cabbage and tens-of-thousands of bushels of other leading vegetables from Pennsylvania commercial growers this summer, compared with last year's harvests, is revealed in a recent survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

The hot, dry weather that prevailed during July and August resulted in serious reductions for cabbage, carrots, celery, cucumbers and spinach. Production for each will be considerably under last year's short crops.

Sweet corn is the only summer crop on which reports were tabulated to show an increase over last year, although 1,000 out of 12,000 acres planted had to be abandoned due to ravages of weather and the European corn borer. Production is now estimated at 55 million ears, about 2 million more than last year.

Production of domestic types of cabbage is now estimated at 20,400 tons, about 7,000 tons less than last year. Danish cabbage will total 13,600 tons compared with 16,100 tons harvested last year. Approximately 200 acres were abandoned.

Carrot production is now estimated to be 630,000 bushels which is 70,000 less than last year. Celery is estimated to be only 165,000 half-crates compared with 260,000 in 1943. Early fall spinach is estimated at 550,000 bushels, nearly 140,000 under 1943 harvestings. The cucumber crop of 120,000 bushels compares with 144,000 harvested last year.

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REDUCED CROPS CALL FOR FEWER WORKERS ON FARMS THIS FALL

LOWERED yields of a number of Pennsylvania farm crops this year due to drought conditions that extended over a period of approximately 10 weeks, resulted in fewer workers being needed at harvest time than had been anticipated in general farming sections, according to a farm labor report issued by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service covering conditions existing as of September 1.

It was disclosed that weather also had a slight influence on the hours of work put in daily by farm operators, members of their families, and hired hands, compared with hours worked at the same time last year.

A year ago farm operators were averaging 13.1 hours a day at their job of harvesting food for war. On September 1 of this year they had reduced this by three-tenths of an hour, or 18 minutes.

Hired hands were averaging 10.5 hours per day on September 1, 1943, but were quitting 12 minutes earlier this year, the average work day being reported as 10.3 hours.

"These are averages for the entire State, and indicate that thousands of our farmers are putting in 14 to 16 and even more hours a day during the harvest season," Secretary Horst declared in commenting on the report. "Significantly, there have been no strikes.

"While no accurate figures are available for the number of farm workers in Pennsylvania this year, the fact that there was an 11 per cent drop in hired workers in the Middle Atlantic States region indicates that many Pennsylvania farm operators and members of their families have been working longer and harder than ever before.

"There have been no real labor crises or crop losses thus far in harvesting Pennsylvania crops. An emergency may develop in apple harvesting, however. Every crop that has matured has been or will be harvested and marketed. While crops have been reduced by dry and hot weather, production for most should be better than last year."

To assist in the harvesting of Pennsylvania farm crops 644 Jamaicans were employed on farms in the State as of August 31, plus 82 Bahamians and 119 Newfoundlanders. These, and a number of prisoners of war, were procured through the farm labor division of the extension service of the Pennsylvania State College. Applications have been filed for approximately 1,200 prisoners of war.

HATCHERY PRODUCTION AT YEAR'S LOW

NOT many more than one-half the number of baby chicks were produced during August of this year in Pennsylvania hatcheries compared with the same month in 1943, and most of the current hatchery output is for broiler production, the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service said in a recent report.

Chick production probably approached the low point for the year during August. Some hatcheries expected to resume operations in September and a few more in October but the general opening for the 1945 season will not occur until January and February. Eggs set by commercial hatcheries in August totaled 2,905,000 compared with 5,188,000 in the same month last year. The August chick production totaled 2,000,000 which was 1,733,000 less than a year previous.

Determination of Pennsylvania farmers to reduce their flocks and cut egg production for the coming year is reflected in more than 11 million fewer chicks produced by commercial hatcheries from January to August inclusive, than for the same period last year.

However, the number of chicks booked September 1 by hatcheries co-operating in the survey was almost as large as a year previous and orders are said to be picking up. In some sections the demand for pullets exceeds the supply, and there appears to be a shortage of good hatching eggs. The price for broilers is considered low.

EGG LAYING CONTEST OPENS TWELFTH YEAR

OPENING of the twelfth Pennsylvania Official Egg Laying Contest will take place here October 1 with a capacity entry of 99 pens totaling 1,287 hens and pullets from 17 states. The contest is sponsored by the poultry and egg division, Bureau of Markets.

After a one-year closing of the event while the contest quarters near the State Farm Show Building were completely reconditioned, the 1944-45 tests will continue for 51 weeks. The Pennsylvania Egg Laying Contest was first opened in 1932, and since that time has been a neutral proving ground for breeders to determine the true worth of the foundation breeding stock they have developed. Five world egg laying records were established in the 1942-43 contest.

Pennsylvania poultry breeders lead this year's contest entries with 32 pens of 13 birds each. Other states represented include California, Connecticut, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Texas and Wyoming.

Breed entries include 48 pens of Single Comb White Leghorns, 1 pen of Black Leghorns, 2 of Anconas, 3 White Wyandottes, 9 New Hampshire, 5 Barred Plymouth Rocks, 17 Rhode Island Reds, and 6 White Rocks. Most pens are pullets.

A committee of members of the Pennsylvania Poultry Association cooperated in reopening the contest. An entry fee of $20, is charged for each pen. Funds received from the sale of eggs go into the State Treasury.

ATTENTION FOCUSED ON PENN'A TOBACCO

INCREASED demands by members of the Armed Forces for cigars, reflected in current requests for boxes of this type of smokes for overseas Christmas boxes, together with civilian early Christmas shopping just around the corner, have centered interest in this year's production of cigar leaf tobacco now being harvested in ten Pennsylvania counties.

It has been an up and down season for tobacco growers in Pennsylvania, according to reports by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. Some growers were fortunate enough to get their plants in early, but wet weather delayed others. Last year's crop of 40 million pounds was better than average, but this year growers planted about 33,600 acres, or 1,900 more than in 1943, and looked for an unusually big harvest.

On July 1 a bumper crop of tobacco was in sight, nearly 49 million pounds. Yield per acre was then estimated at 1,451 pounds. Hot and dry weather of July appeared to retard tobacco as it did corn and vegetables. By August 1 there was gloom on tobacco farms when the 1944 crop was estimated at 45,420,000 pounds because drought had cut prospective yield per acre to 1,352 pounds.

By September 1, through nature providing some timely showers in Lancaster and most of the other 10 counties where tobacco is grown, farmers reported a substantial recovery for the crop. Officials reports showed estimated acre yield had snapped back to 1,421 pounds for a predicted crop of 47,736,000 pounds.

But the 1944 crop will not reach the cigar counters for at least two years. It must be cured and processed, a long and careful task to get the aroma and flavor that make Pennsylvania tobacco the choice of many cigar manufacturers.

EGG PRODUCTION FOR AUGUST IS 29 MILLION UNDER JULY OUTPUT

PENNSYLVANIA farm flocks set a new high record for August production with 190 million eggs, but their effort was 29 million short of July's output, according to a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. The number of layers in August was 14,230,000 or 2.2 per cent less than July.

Compared with August a year ago, Pennsylvania commercial poultrymen cooperating in the survey were receiving this August about 9 per cent less for eggs and paying 12 per cent more per hundredweight for feed. It required the value of 97 eggs to buy 100 pounds of feed in August of this year compared with 107 in July and 78 in August 1943. In the same month last year they were receiving an average of 46.8 cents a dozen for eggs which was 4.3 cents per dozen more than they received this August.

Farm flocks in the United States laid an all-time August record of more than four billion eggs, 42 per cent above the August average for the ten-year period, 1933 to 1942.

MILK FLOW SHOWS DECLINE IN AUGUST

WHILE poor pastures which necessitated putting dairy cows on "stable rations" contributed to a greater-than-usual seasonal decline per cow, total milk production on Pennsylvania farms during August was higher than for the same month a year ago, a Federal-State survey discloses.

Milk production for the month totaled 437,000,000 pounds, which was 2 per cent below July but 2 per cent above August 1, 1943. Production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents was eight-tenths of a pound lower on September 1 than on the same date last year, and four-tenths of a pound less than the 1933-42 September 1 average.

By September 1 the condition of pastures had declined to 52 per cent of normal, having dropped 12 points during August and 24 points during July. Pastures were uniformly poor in all areas due to continued dry, hot weather, and furnished relatively little or no feed.

National milk production for August was about 2 per cent below the same month last year and 4 per cent below the record for the month established in 1942.

FRUIT AND POTATO CROPS ARE REDUCED

PROSPECTS for much smaller crops of potatoes and apples from Pennsylvania farms this year than last were reported in mid-September by the Bureau of Markets.

Potato harvests will be well under last year's light production because August weather killed vines in most fields in the southeast section where seven of the ten largest potato growing counties of the State are located. Prospects are best in Potter County and even there the yields are not expected to be up to normal.

Most growers believe drought conditions curtailed apple production more seriously than peach production. Many expect 20 to 30 per cent fewer bushels of apples harvested than early estimates indicated. Some peach growers say their final harvest may be 25 per cent under earlier predictions while others report 50 per cent. In general, the grape crop looks better than for many years.

Of the vegetables grown for canning, tomatoes have withstood the dry weather best with lima beans a close second. Tomato yields are surprisingly good in some sections while others will yield only a ton or two to the acre.

There was a fair crop of lima beans for canning, but growers of sweet corn for processing report the total pack was only 50 to 60 per cent of normal for the acreage planted.

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ACHIEVE GAINS IN LIVESTOCK HEALTH THRU T. B. TESTS

MAINTENANCE of health in farm livestock has a direct bearing on the health of humans, and the continuing decrease of tuberculosis in Pennsylvania dairy cows is an important factor in reduction of that disease among citizens of the State, according to Dr. C. P. Bishop, director of the Bureau of Animal Industry.

The State's continuous fight against tuberculosis in farm dairy herds, which started before Pennsylvania became a modified accredited disease-free state in 1936, has now reached the point where only three in every thousand dairy cows tested are found to be afflicted with the disease and are killed.

Outstanding in the results of the testing program that never stops is the fact that the disease has been found to be less prevalent among "home raised" cattle, or in those dairy areas where farmers usually depend upon raising their own cattle. In sections where it is customary to have a large inter-change of cattle through sales and importations, the degree of infection is higher, Dr. Bishop says.

In the past six years an exceptionally good record has been attained. In 1938 the percentage of reactors was .6 of 1 per cent; in 1943 this had been reduced to .3 of 1 per cent. Approximately 440,000 cattle will be tested this year. In some years the number exceeds half a million.

"Healthy livestock means economical production," Dr. Bishop added. "When one considers the number of cattle tested in the last six years, and the number of reacting cattle removed from the herds, it is clearly demonstrated that by continuous tuberculin testing the degree of infection can be kept at a minimum. We can keep the disease down only through the whole-hearted cooperation of the herd owners in purchasing cattle that are known to have originated from negative tuberculin tested herds."

CHEESE MAKING HELD ITS OWN DURING 1943

MANUFACTURE of cheese in Pennsylvania as an important contribution to the wartime food supply was increased slightly in 1943 compared with the previous year, according to a survey compiled in the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service, State Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the State Department of Internal Affairs.

Total poundage of all cheese made in this State last year—not counting cottage, pot and bakers' cheese—amounted to 11,497,000, which was 10,000 pounds more than in 1942.

Cream and Neufchatel cheeses made up the greater part of the year's production, totaling approximately 8,900,000 pounds compared with slightly more than 7 million pounds in 1942. American cheddar cheese manufactured from whole milk dropped from 1,846,000 pounds to 1,172,000.

Pennsylvania production of cottage, pot and bakers' cheese fell off 650,000 pounds from the 12,597,000 manufactured in 1942.

APPLE CEILINGS

FEWER top grade Pennsylvania apples will reach consumer markets this fall than usual, largely because of a price ceiling situation that fails to provide growers with incentive to pack high quality fruit, according to recent reports from growers. As a result of unfavorable price ceilings on wholesale lots the market is likely to be flooded with cull apples, growers have advised the Department.

In late September apples were selling readily at retail ceiling prices, but growers pointed out that no provision had been made for premium grades, varieties or sizes. Growers said that ceilings should be based on U. S. No. 1 quality, with premium prices for large sizes and choice varieties.

CANNING VEGETABLE YIELDS CUT GREATLY

COMPARED with 1943, this year's drought was more destructive in yields of all major canning vegetables and cut severely into returns to growers of all such crops except peas, a recent preliminary survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service, State Department of Agriculture, reveals. The canning pea crop was well harvested before the hot, dry spell began in early July.

Most disappointing to growers was the drop in acre yield and total production of tomatoes intended for processing. Last year the yield per acre was 6.6 tons but this year it dropped to 5.3 tons. The total estimated production of 187,600 tons is 1,200 tons below 1943 in spite of the fact that growers increased their planted acreage by nearly 7,000 acres. The potential loss since the August estimate is nearly 25,000 tons.

Acreage yield of sweet corn fell only one-tenth of a ton below last year's 1.7 tons and production is estimated at 26,400 tons, which is 2,000 tons under last year but nearly 7,000 tons above the 10-year average, 1933-42. The total acreage of sweet corn for canning this year was 16,500, only 200 under last year.

The snap bean crop of 6,800 tons this year is 900 under 1943 production in spite of the fact that the 6,200 acres planted this year was 800 more than in 1943. The yield per acre was 1.1 tons this year compared with 1.8 tons in 1943.

Although the acreage of green lima beans for canning this year was only 200 under last year's 1,000 acres, drought cut the yield per acre to 600 pounds, a reduction of 240 pounds under 1943. The total production is estimated at 240 tons, considerably under the 10-year average.

Green peas were the only canning crop to make a gain this year compared with 1943. The yield per acre of 1,850 pounds was 130 ahead of last year and total production of 16,740 tons is approximately 1,700 more than last year. The crop was grown on 18,100 acres, 600 more than last year, about two and a half times the 10-year average.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS HEAVIEST IN SEPT.

HEAVIEST shipments of carload lots of Pennsylvania apples may be expected in January, February and March, if movements of last year's crop are taken as a guide.

According to a report on carlot shipments of fruits and vegetables in Pennsylvania from the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service, apples shipped in 1943 totaled 812 carlots, of which 182 were shipped in January, 174 in February and 176 in March. Only 32 carlot shipments were made in December. The low point for shipments was in June when only one carload was shipped in the State.

Tomatoes made up the largest single farm crop in the total of 3,147 carlot shipments in Pennsylvania last year, apples running second with 812 carloads. All tomatoes were shipped in the months of August and September except for 12 carlots in October.

Out of a total of 329 carlots of potatoes, the heaviest movements were in October, November and January. The 271 carlot shipments of peaches were made in August and September. Other fruit and vegetable carlot shipments included: 37 of spinach; 4 dried apples, 4 green corn, 3 cabbage and one each of snap and lima beans, carrots, cucumbers, onions, plums, fresh prunes, and mixed vegetables.

Peak carlot movement came in September with a total of 1,068, and August was a close second, when 992 carlots of fruit and vegetables were moved over the railroads.

Pennsylvania's 1944 grape crop, now estimated at 19,800 tons is 29 per cent larger than last year's.

APPLE PROCESSING PLANTS MAY REACH NEW HIGH RECORDS

PENNSYLVANIA apple processing plants have swung into what may prove to be the biggest and busiest season in their history. A shortage of labor for packing, price ceilings, and a large proportion of small sized fruit have combined to provide the canning plants with an extra share of the 9,000,000 bushel commercial apple crop.

Most plants are now working overtime, many of them on two shifts that run as high as 16 to 20 hours a day as they strive to meet the demands of the Armed Forces and civilians for apples processed in various ways, the Bureau of Markets reports.

The greatest percentage of the canning crop will go into slicing machines for the making of the nation's most popular dessert—apple pie—with the bulk eventually reaching the service men on battle fronts throughout the world. There will be more apple sauce for babies this year—made from selected fruit, strained and packaged in small tins.

Thousands of gallons of apple juice will be processed in the Pennsylvania plants. A good share of the crop will go into apple jelly and apple butter, and prospects for more dried apples are in sight for this year compared with last.

According to present prospects there will be more fresh apple cider available from farmer and commercial cider presses this year. Cider was almost impossible to obtain last year and its return to Halloween and other fall party menus will be welcomed.

Canners find the York Imperial is first choice for canning, with Stayman a close second. This is an "off-year" for Yorks but Stayman's came through with a good crop.

Most of the crop is being sold on the basis of official grades. The Department of Agriculture has placed inspectors at canneries and apple packing houses to certify cannery receipts and carlot shipments.

On the fresh market at this time civilian consumers will find such popular early fall varieties as Grimes, Jonathan, Delicious, Smokehouse and Rambos. Stayman's, the State's most popular apple, will be ready to use by mid-October.

PART OF JAP BEETLE QUARANTINE LIFTED

THE DEPARTMENT on September 30 officially lifted the 1944 Japanese beetle quarantine ban against the shipment of cut flowers from the heavily infested area, south and east of Harrisburg. The quarantine on movement of fruit and vegetables from the area was lifted on September 8. Both quarantines were established last June 26.

Releasing the quarantines on fruits, vegetables and cut flowers does not lift the ban on shipment of nursery stock, soil, sand and similar materials which might contain beetle eggs and grubs, the Bureau of Plant Industry warned. None of these materials may be moved from any part of the restricted area at any time of the year without certification by State or Federal inspectors.

All of the State, except portions of Erie, Crawford and Mercer Counties are now in the generally restricted area.

MOST HATCHERIES

PENNSYLVANIA leads all states of the Nation in the number of commercial baby chick hatcheries, according to an extensive survey of that industry comparing 1938 conditions with 1943, results of which have been announced by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

The State is credited with a total of 636 commercial hatcheries, 12 more than Iowa and 21 more than Texas. Nationally, the number of hatcheries decreased 4 per cent since 1938.

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Miles Horst, Secretary of Agriculture

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NO CHANGE IN INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED DURING PAST YEAR

THERE has been practically no change in the past year in the index of prices received by Pennsylvania farmers for agricultural products, according to a survey of price conditions as of September 15, issued by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Based on the 1909-1914 five year average as 100, the September 15 price index stood at 206, compared with 205 a year earlier. In the same period and on the same basis, the index of prices farmers have to pay for services and supplies advanced from 164 to 170.

The purchasing power of the farmers' dollar dropped 4 cents, from $1.25 to $1.21 in the 12-month period, figured on the farmers' dollar being worth 100 cents for the 1909-14 average.

Between August 15 and September 15 of this year the index of all farm products advanced one point to 206. A decline in prices received for crops was more than offset by slight increases in the price of livestock and livestock products. The price index for meat animals declined 4 points while dairy products advanced 2 points and poultry and eggs 7 points. Price comparisons follow:

	Sept. 15 1943	Aug. 15 1944	Sept. 15 1944
Wheat, Bu.	$ 1.54	$ 1.45	$ 1.44
Corn, Bu.	1.22	1.45	1.45
Oats, Bu.	.82	.84	.80
Barley, Bu.	1.11	1.26	1.22
Rye, Bu.	1.09	1.22	1.22
Buckwheat, Bu.	1.08	1.39	1.23
Soybeans, Bu.	1.90	1.90	1.95
Potatoes, Bu.	1.75	2.10	2.00
Hay, loose, Ton	14.20	15.70	16.00
Apples, Bu.	2.10	2.15	2.10
Hogs, Cwt.	14.50	13.80	14.10
Beef Cattle, Cwt.	13.70	13.10	12.60
Veal Calves, Cwt.	15.40	15.10	15.30
Sheep, Cwt.	6.20	5.00	4.85
Lambs, Cwt.	13.00	13.00	13.00
Milk cows, Head	157.00	153.00	151.00
Horses, Head	138.00	125.00	120.00
Mules, Head	143.00	135.00	132.00
Chickens, Lb.	.293	.271	.268
Turkeys, Lb.	.36	.360	.36
Milk, wholesale, Cwt.	3.55	3.50	3.60
Milk, retail, Qt.	.142	.143	.143
Butter, Lb.	.49	.48	.48
Butterfat, Lb.	.50	.49	.49
Eggs, Doz.	.480	.397	.420
Wool, Lb.	.43	.43	.45

BIG CITY TURKEY SUPPLY IN DOUBT

ALTHOUGH the Army is not taking turkeys from Pennsylvania's all-time record crop this year—20 per cent larger than last—production will be under consumer demands, the Bureau of Markets reports.

Consumers in metropolitan areas of the State may have difficulty in getting fully dressed home-grown Pennsylvania birds for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, according to present indications, E. J. Lawless, Jr., in charge of the Bureau's division of eggs and poultry, believes.

However, families in the smaller cities and towns should be more fortunate, especially where they can place orders in advance with growers, retailers and with farmers who attend markets, it was said. The situation is similar to last year when the crop of 1,071,000 turkeys was in good demand.

Most turkeys sold in the larger cities of the State must come from the 35 million high record national crop that is being drawn upon heavily by the Army.

Out of this year's estimated production of 1,285,000 turkeys in Pennsylvania, relatively few will be sold outside the State, Mr. Lawless explained. Most consumers in this State demand a fully drawn and dressed bird, requiring extra labor and handling, and a possible shortage of labor over the holidays may prove a handicap in deliveries.

Colder weather is needed now to help put "finish" and weight on the birds. As of September 15 farmers were receiving an average of 36 cents a pound, live weight. This year's turkey crop is the largest in the State's history and the third year in succession that it has exceeded a million birds.

STATUS OF ARMY-HELD FARM SHOW BUILDING EXPLAINED; GROUPS PLAN FOR 1945 MEETINGS

WHILE there is no expectation of resuming pre-war State Farm Show exhibits and contests in the Army-held 13-acre State Farm Show Building for at least six months or perhaps a year after the war, plans were laid on October 5 by representatives of a score of state-wide farm organizations to hold their annual meetings in Harrisburg January 9, 10 and 11, to be known as State Farm Show Week.

Members of the State Farm Show Commission told the delegates, who comprise the State Farm Show Committee, that conversion of the Farm Show building to Army service needs has been such as to require an extended time to re-convert it to Farm Show use.

They said there was no indication as to how soon after the war the building could be turned back to the State by the Army. Responsibility for restoration of the property to Farm Show use rests with the Army, it was explained.

Secretary Horst, chairman of both the Farm Show Commission and the Farm Show Committee, emphasized that the wartime type of Farm Show Week program would continue for the duration, although the Farm Show Building is not available, even for meetings.

Official opening of the 1945 Farm Show Week was set by the Commission for Tuesday evening, January 9. Several farm organizations will start meetings that afternoon. It is expected that possibly 25 state-wide groups will convene during the week, using local assembly halls and hotels for meeting places. More than 20 met last January for the 1944 Farm Show Week, the second wartime program outside the Farm Show Building.

The Pennsylvania Country Life Association was elected to membership on the State Farm Show Committee which is made up of elected delegates from 35 agricultural organizations.

1944 CERTIFIED SEED WHEAT AT NEW HIGH

FARMERS of Pennsylvania this year attained an all-time record in the production of official State certified seed wheat when a total of 3,871 acres passed all field inspections by the Bureau of Plant Industry. This was more than twice the acreage certified last year and 1,666 more than the previous high record of 2,205 acres certified in 1941.

During 1944 there were almost twice as many acres of wheat entered for initial inspections for seed certification than were inspected in 1943, a total of 5,321 compared with 2,678. Rejections this year totaled 1,450 acres as against 923 that failed to qualify last year. Rejections were made on fields found to contain excessive amounts of disease, noxious weeds and mixtures of other grains.

Approximately 90 farmers in 29 counties had fields that passed final inspections. To meet State seed certification requirements, grain must show a purity of 99 per cent or more and a germination of 90 per cent or better in laboratory tests.

Among the wheat varieties, Thorne led in the number of acres certified, 1,684. Leap's Prolific had 840 acres, Nured 696, Nittany 539, Forward 101 and Leapland 11 acres.

BUY POTATOES NOW FOR WINTER USE

HOUSEWIVES who have safe storage facilities will be wise to buy their winter supply of potatoes now, the Bureau of Markets advises.

Pennsylvania potatoes early in October were plentiful and selling at below ceiling prices, making them an economical purchase. Due to what growers call "digging time glut," wholesale and retail prices should continue low until storage costs begin to pile up and prices must be advanced.

"Under no circumstances should a consumer attempt to hold any large quantity of potatoes unless cellar or other storage space is available where temperature can be maintained between 38 and 42 degrees," cautioned D. M. James, in charge of the bureau's fruit and vegetable division. "Cold cellar storage compartments with earth floor are best, and some attics that do not get too warm or too cold may be used. Also, potatoes must be kept in dark places."

NOW IS TIME TO START BORER FIGHT

PRELIMINARY reports on damage to Pennsylvania farm and garden crops last summer by the European corn borer, gathered from a state-wide survey to determine the extent of spread and infestation, show that farmers and Victory gardeners should give immediate attention to clearing their land of all heavy plant stalks and corn stubble.

The warning comes from the Bureau of Plant Industry, whose inspectors soon will complete their annual survey of infestation. There are indications that in some counties the double-brooded borer spread extensively. In others there was little or no increase.

Victory gardeners who grew corn last summer are urged to make a final visit to their plots and pull up or cut all stalks close to the ground and burn the refuse, including all heavy-stemmed plants and weeds. Farmers can aid in control work by finely shredding the fodder or plowing down stalks and stubble to a depth of at least six inches, smothering the borers.

FIRE PREVENTION

THE following "Fire Prevention Week" statement was issued by Secretary Horst:

"Farmers probably are the most fire-conscious group in American. It is necessary that they should be. Next to his family and land, his buildings, livestock and equipment are the farmer's most treasured possessions. They are his stock in trade, his investment in business that returns a living for him and his family. When fire destroys that investment the loss is more than serious—it may be highly devastating, completely changing the life and living of an entire family.

"That is why Pennsylvania farmers are constantly on their guard against the ravages of fire; that is why it is important that we have Fire Prevention Week as a reminder to uncover and correct all possible fire hazards, and a time for all farmers to resolve that fire prevention is a 24-hour-a-day, 365-day-a-year job."

FARM INCOME

PENNSYLVANIA farmers received $248,507,000 from farm marketings during the first six months of 1944, according to latest estimates. Of this amount $196,422,000 was derived from livestock products and $52,085,000 from crops. Comparative figures for the first six months of last year, were: livestock and livestock products, $178,676,000; crops, $49,121,000 or a total of $227,797,000.

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RAINS, INCREASED ACREAGES AND YIELDS HELP SIX CROPS FORGE AHEAD OF 1943 PRODUCTION

HEAVY rains that came to parched farm sections during the third week in September, especially in the eastern counties where they were needed most, brought material benefit to field and fruit crops which had been suffering from lack of moisture, according to the Pennsylvania general crop and livestock report as of October 1, issued by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Corn, potatoes, buckwheat, tobacco and hay production estimates were increased over September 1 indications. Although the rain came too late to help the bulk of the corn crop, it benefited late planted fields that were still green. The estimate increased to a production of 53,124,000 bushels, or nearly 1,400,000 more than was indicated September 1.

Potato production on October 1 was indicated at 18,645,000 bushels, a gain of 825,000 for the month. The important Lehigh-Northampton and Berks-Lancaster areas suffered most from the dry weather, and frosts on the 24th killed quite a few vines in the northern tier area, including Potter County. Rains during the month caused considerable second growth in fields that were still green, and there will be an unusual number of seconds and culls in all sections of the State.

Rains benefited late tobacco crops but favored development of rust in many fields. The recovery of this crop is estimated to be 1,832,000 pounds, the October 1 estimate being that much above a month earlier. Probably 90 per cent of the crop has been cut and many yields are running high. Buckwheat prospects gained 157,000 bushels.

Rains were very helpful to grasses in most sections. Pastures have been revived and are again furnishing some feed for livestock in most sections. Estimates of hay production were for a gain of 109,000 over September indications.

Rainfall for the month averaged .40 inch above normal, but temperatures one degree below. A killing frost visited the northern tier counties on the 24th but damage to crops was not extensive.

Most of September was ideal for harvesting, but many farmers felt the shortage of labor, which was relieved somewhat by the help of women and school children. The rains restored wells and springs, some dry for the first time in thirty years and facilitated fall plowing and seeding which had been proceeding slowly. Where up, winter grains are making excellent growth.

Some Better Than '42 and '43

With the 1944 farm field crop harvests now virtually completed, production estimates show that Pennsylvania farmers, in the third year of the war, despite drought and shortage of experienced labor, have exceeded 1943 production with six crops, and went ahead of 1942 with four.

Increased acreages and as good or better yields per acre brought bigger harvests this year over last for corn, wheat, oats, buckwheat and tobacco. While rye acreage was reduced 10 per cent, production this year was 42,000 bushels more than 1943, due to favorable growing conditions in the spring.

Crops which forged ahead of the bumper crop year of 1942 included wheat, buckwheat, potatoes and tobacco. However, the only crops to exceed the 10-year average production, 1933 to 1942, were wheat, buckwheat, tobacco and hay. This year's tobacco crop of almost 50 million pounds is the largest since 1941. The acreage was 6 per cent greater than last year and about 6,000 above the 10-year average.

October 1 estimates of 1944 corn production were for a crop of 53,124,000 bushels, close to 4,000,000 more than 1943, grown on an acreage 8 per cent larger than last year. Yield per acre was 38 bushels, the same as 1943.

Wheat production is estimated at 20,108,000 bushels, which is 6,831,000 more than 1943, the acreage increase being 17 per cent. Yield per acre advanced from 17 to 22 bushels.

Oats totals 23,712,000 bushels, or 8,834,000 over last year, with a 9 per cent increase in acreage. Barley acreage was cut back 30 per cent and the crop of 2,332,000 bushels is 418,000 under last year. The 666,000 bushels of rye harvested is 42,000 more than 1943. Each of these showed much better yields per acre than the previous year. An increase of 19 per cent in buckwheat acreage netted a crop of 2,983,000 bushels, 475,000 over 1943, with yield per acre running 19 bushels, the same as last year.

Potato acreage was reduced 6 per cent but the average yield of 113 bushels per acre, 7 more than last year, is estimated to give 18,645,000 bushels, only 11,000 under last year.

Tobacco production is indicated at 49,568,000 pounds, or 9,554,000 over 1943 and compares with the 10-year average of 38,537,000 pounds. Yield per acre is 1,475 pounds, 213 more than last year. Acreage of tame hay was reduced 3 per cent and production of 3,162,000 tons was 237,000 below 1943, but 154,000 above the 10-year average.

Fruit Prospects

Sizing of late fruits has been aided by the September rains. Many apple trees in the Berks-Lehigh area are loaded with small fruit, but where properly thinned it is of good size. Yorks have improved but the moisture has caused considerable cracking of Staymans.

Harvesting for canning is in full swing but the quality of apples is not so good as desired. Grape clusters in the Erie belt are compact and berries unusually sweet.

The indicated production of commercial apples was 9,100,000 bushels as of October 1, an increase of approximately 4 million bushels over 1943. The peach crop then was estimated at 1,886,000 bushels, or 710,000 more than last year. The pear crop of 458,000 bushels exceeded that of 1943 by 284,000 bushels. The grape crop was indicated at 20,000 tons, or 4,700 more than 1943.

BANG TESTING GOES AHEAD IN SEPTEMBER

IN CONTINUED efforts to keep farm animal disease at a minimum and provide consumers with wholesome meat and livestock products, the Bureau of Animal Industry during the month of September increased its Bang disease testing to 663 herds and 1,696 cattle compared with 596 herds and 1,620 cattle in August.

The percentage of Bang-infested herds dropped from 15.1 to 14.7 during the month, but the percentage of infected cattle remained at 3.3, the same as August.

The meat hygiene division of the Bureau inspected more than 39,000 animals at slaughter houses during September, and condemned 154 as unfit for human consumption. More than 8,000 dressed carcasses were examined in meat markets and abbatoirs, but none had to be condemned. The division in September vaccinated more than 7,600 hogs against cholera.

Production of red cloverseed in Pennsylvania this year is forecast at 24,000 bushels of thresher-run or 19,700 bushels of clean seed. The acreage is placed at 28,000, the same as last year, but losses in cleaning ran a little heavier this year. It was too dry for seed this year and prospects are quite varied.

5 PCT. FERTILIZERS FOUND DEFICIENT IN STATE TESTS

IMPORTANCE of checking the chemical make-up of fertilizers used by Pennsylvania farmers for wartime food production is revealed in the annual fertilizer report of the Bureau of Foods and Chemistry.

Out of 479 official samples analyzed during 1943 in bureau laboratories, 26 or 5.4 per cent were found to be deficient in meeting manufacturer's guarantees on the amount of one or more elements of plant food, the report reveals. Deficiencies were found to be two-tenths of 1 per cent or more in all cases. The proportion of farm fertilizers that failed to meet guarantees of analysis was higher than reported for 1942.

Sales of all classes of fertilizers in Pennsylvania in 1942 totaled 378,733 compared with approximately 375,600 tons sold in 1941, according to reports of manufacturers when applications for 1943 licenses were filed. Licenses were issued to 101 manufacturers for 1943, a reduction of 17 from the previous year.

The average retail selling price for complete fertilizers sold in 1943 was $36.20 per ton, compared with $34.44 for 1942.

HURRICANE DAMAGES EASTERN VEGETABLES

EXTENSIVE damage to late vegetable crops in commercial areas of eastern Pennsylvania from the hurricane September 12-14 was reported in a survey of conditions covering the latter part of September, issued by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Spinach was particularly hard hit when the hurricane period rainfall of 6 to 8 inches was followed by unseasonably high temperatures which "melted" all spinach nearing maturity in the Bucks-Philadelphia area.

Recent digging of carrots grown on heavy soils with poor drainage has revealed that some fields in the same area have been a complete loss while many others yielded less than one-third of an average crop. Under such conditions carrots had rotted badly.

Mid-September rains brought recovery to many fields of Danish cabbage in eastern areas which previously had been considered a total loss. However, yields will be half of normal with heads small, but of good quality and marketable size. Most of the crop in the Columbia-Luzerne-Schuylkill area will not be ready to market until November.

The small acreage of celery in the eastern area looks fair, where irrigated, but the non-irrigated is bady blighted and not much larger than when planted during late July. Marketings are very light. Recent rains and cooler weather improved the quality of celery in the Lycoming-Tioga section, were marketings are expected to decline after mid-October. Crops in other central and western sections are late.

Harvest of "green wrap" tomatoes has been tapering off in the Lackawanna-Wyoming section. Frost on the 24th ended harvest in most of the northern localities.

In southeastern sections where the hurricane damage to spinach was severe, most of the acreage was replanted. Unless weather during November is open and free of hard freezes this acreage will be carried over for harvest next spring.

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MILK PRODUCTION IN SEPTEMBER SHOWS ADVANCE OVER 1943

SEPTEMBER milk production on Pennsylvania farms totaled 399 million pounds, a drop of 9 per cent from August, but an advance of 2 per cent over September of last year, according to the September dairy report of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

The percentage of milk cows milked, 77.3 per cent, is the lowest reported on October 1 since records began in 1928.

Farmers reported they were feeding a slightly larger ration of grain than a year earlier, which is considered one answer to the increase in production compared with September, 1943.

Production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents was 0.3 pound lower on October 1, 1944 than on the same date of the previous month but 0.5 pound above the same date a year ago.

Pasture condition improved 15 points during September to 67 per cent of normal and compared with a year ago, was 20 points higher. A number of dairymen reported a sufficient growth of grasses to furnish some feed. Quality of the new grass is poor in many localities and as a result, grain feeding averaged 5.8 pounds per cow, compared with 5.6 pounds on October 1, 1943.

Rains during September, while aiding growth of pastures, came too late to help grain and feed crops materially.

HEALTH AIDS DAIRY, POULTRY INCREASES

ABILITY of Pennsylvania farmers to increase the output of livestock and poultry products to meet wartime food demands is due in great measure to the splendid cooperation of the practicing veterinarians of the State, Secretary Horst, told members of the 62nd annual convention of the Pennsylvania State Veterinary Medical Association at the opening of their two-day session on October 19.

He explained that not only has the health of Pennsylvania farm animals and poultry been greatly improved over the years, due to the efforts of veterinarians in fighting contagious diseases, but that assistance in breeding has provided farmers of the State with a better quality of livestock and poultry.

"A good bit of the evidence lies in the fact that since the last World War egg production has increased more than 50 per cent per layer, and milk production has increased approximately 40 per cent per cow," he declared. "It is only with well bred, healthy chickens and dairy cattle that such accomplishments could have been achieved."

Post-war agriculture in Pennsylvania holds a great deal of promise, but the period will call for a high degree of efficiency and economy in farm operation, the Secretary told members of the Pennsylvania Farm Equipment Dealers Association meeting in Altoona, on the same day.

Reminding that the average Pennsylvania farm has only 50 to 60 acres of land for cropping, he said it would not be desirable, from an economic point of view, "to overload individual small farmers with machines and equipment from which they could not obtain maximum benefit."

It would be better for all concerned —the dealer, the farmer, and the banker, when improved farm machinery of all types becomes readily available after the war—if dealers and farmers get together and carefully analyze their requirements, he explained.

Not every farmer needs or wants an expensive combine, bailer or spraying outfit, he declared, but many neighborhood groups can and will get together on the cooperative use of such machines.

1944 POTATO CROP MAKES RECOVERY

RAINS of mid-September came in time to add more than $1,000,000 to the value of the Pennsylvania 1944 potato crop on the basis of prices received by farmers the 15th of the month, according to Department estimates.

Reports of the Federal-State Crop reporting Service on July 1, before the summer drought became serious, showed an indicated production of 20,625,000 bushels of potatoes. On September 1 the crop estimate was reduced to 17,820,000 bushels. Recovery brought by mid-September rains to late planted fields and some areas where vines were still green was such that production estimates advanced to 18,645,000 bushels on October 1, an increase of 825,000 for the month. Pennsylvania 10-year average production, 1933-1942, was 22,836,000 bushels.

This year's crop will be sufficient to rank Pennsylvania fifth among all the states in potato production. Although the acreage was reduced 6 per cent this year compared with last, the yield per acre is estimated at 113 bushels, or 7 more than in 1943. Production is estimated to be 11,000 more than last year.

Fields kept green by spraying, particularly in the northern tier counties, were frosted on the 24th of September and as a result digging was in full swing by the first of October, including the important Potter County area. The Cambria-Somerset crop was also benefited by late rains. The usually high-producing Lehigh-Northampton and Berks-Lehigh areas were hardest hit by dry weather, particularly the earlier varieties. Many fields of Sebagos and Katahdins were still green when the rains came and yields were improved materially.

The Bureau of Markets suggests that consumers who have safe storage facilities should buy their winter supply of potatoes during the month of October when prices are lowest. Since dry weather reduced the size of tubers there will be a plentiful supply of smaller sizes, making them an economical purchase.

FEWER TOP GRADE APPLES AVAILABLE

A NUMBER of Pennsylvania commercial apple growers have reported to the Bureau of Markets that they will store few if any U. S. No. 1 or top grade apples this year for winter sales.

Drought conditions kept down the size of the fruit until mid-September rains brought some improvement. However, rains were too late to increase materially the supply of the large, perfect apples to meet No. 1 grade standards.

Other factors influencing packers against grading and storing top grade apples include the shortage of labor and containers, and the fact that worm damage has been heavier this year than usual. A large part of the crop is going to processing plants, and much of the fresh market supply will be sold ungraded.

According to the October 1 general crop report of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service, this year's commercial apple crop on that date was estimated at 9,100,000 bushels, approximately 4 million more than last year, and about the same as the 10-year average from 1933 to 1942. Pennsylvania this year ranks fourth among the states in the production of apples.

While September rains improved the sizing of late varieties, particularly Yorks, they caused some cracking of Staymans. Sizes of all varieties are averaging a little smaller than expected earlier in the season.

Out of 28,101 tuberculin tests applied to cattle during the month of September, there were only 138 reactors, the Bureau of Animal Industry reports. There were no reactors among the 138 tests applied to goats.

PAYS TRIBUTE TO CULTURAL METHODS OF PENN'A DUTCH

ADDRESSING the Pennsylvania German Society in annual meeting at Reading recently, Secretary Horst said that most of the Pennsylvania counties where the Pennsylvania Dutch have been operating farms for 200 or more years, are today among the leading counties of the United States in agricultural production.

Cultural methods that were introduced by German farmers following the first arrivals in 1683 are still generally in effect today, not only in Pennsylvania, but throughout the Nation, he said. These include the rotation of crops, the raising of livestock and poultry, generous use of clover and other legumes, lime, manure and other fertilizers.

"Wherever there is limestone soil in Pennsylvania you are almost certain to find Pennsylvania German farmers," the speaker said. "The early settlers found this type of soil to their liking and through the years have maintained its fertility to such extent that today we find many of these farms as good or better than they were more than 200 years ago."

Development of the Conestoga wagon and the Conestoga horse in Lancaster County was an important factor in early transportation and they aided materially in early pioneer development of the West, he said.

For many years Lancaster County held the enviable position as first among all counties of the United States in the value of its agricultural products, and now stands fifth due to four larger California counties developing intensive truck farming in recent years. Other counties, where Pennsylvania German farmers predominate, continue year after year to show outstanding agricultural production records. Among these are York, Berks, Lehigh, Northampton, Lebanon, Schuylkill, Franklin, Cumberland, Bucks, Somerset, Union, Snyder, Northumberland, Dauphin, Carbon, Blair, Mifflin, Montour and Columbia counties.

FARM FLOCKS MAKE NEW SEPT. RECORD

ALTHOUGH egg production continued to decline seasonally during September, Pennsylvania farm flocks established another new high record for egg production during that month, according to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

A total of 173 million eggs were produced by farm hens and pullets during September, exceeding the previous September record of 160 million eggs achieved last year. However, production declined seasonally from the August total of 190 million eggs. The decrease from August to September was 9 per cent this year compared with 11 per cent a year ago.

The September record was attained largely because the number of layers on Pennsylvania farms for that month was about 8 per cent greater than the previous month, but the increase is not so large as during the same months in 1943 when the number was 11 per cent greater.

Not only has egg production so far this year consistently maintained a record high level but it is reported to be 7 per cent above the first 9 months of last year.

Commercial poultrymen cooperating in the survey were receiving this September about 11 per cent less for eggs and paying 8 per cent more per hundred pounds for feed compared with last September.

Commercial poultrymen reported that it took the value of 93 eggs to buy 100 pounds of feed, compared with only 77 in September of 1943, indicating that feed costs have advanced out of proportion to prices received for eggs.

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SHRINKAGE IN FARM FLOCKS IS SEEN AS CHICK ORDERS DROP

ADDITIONAL future reductions in the size of Pennsylvania farm flocks are seen in a recent announcement that commercial hatcheries of the State turned out only half as many baby chicks in September as they did in the same month last year.

According to a report on hatchery production issued by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service, calls for fall chicks have been very light. Supply has been adjusted to demand, which is mostly for broilers.

Commercial hatchery production for September totaled 1,356,000 baby chicks compared with 2,712,000 in September 1943. This total is nearly 150,000 under the average for the five-year period, 1938 to 1942.

Baby chick production for the first nine months of this year was slightly under 60 million compared with nearly 72 million for the same period in 1943. The number of eggs set in September was 2,743,000 compared with 4,287,000 for the same month last year. For the nine month period 86,808,000 eggs were set compared with slightly more than 106 million for the same period in 1943.

Hatcherymen say that orders for chicks on October 1 were less than two-thirds of what they were a year previous.

Nationally, the output of chicks by commercial hatcheries decreased in September to only slightly more than half of the record output of September 1943. Hatcheries report a scarcity of hatching eggs and some are unable to meet current demands for chicks. In Pennsylvania the shift from hen to pullet eggs for hatching will begin soon

HONEY PRODUCTION FALLS OFF SLIGHTLY

THE growing practice of cutting clover early in the season for dairy cow feed appears to be reducing the production of honey in Pennsylvania, according to the preliminary annual honey report of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Honey production this year in Pennsylvania is estimated at 6,112,000 pounds which is 144,000 pounds less than in 1943. Total production dropped this year even though the 191,000 colonies was 7,000 more than last year. Yield per colony averaged 32 pounds which was 2 less than in 1943.

As of September 15 producers had remaining on hand for sale 1,834,000 pounds of honey. The smaller honey crop this year is due partly to the fact that bees in some hives were eating the honey as fast as they produced it. Many beekeepers feared that in such cases the supply of honey would not be ample to last the bees through the winter, making it necessary for them to provide sugar as food for the bees to keep them alive.

The 1944 honey season in Pennsylvania was, as a whole, only fair and production quite spotty. It was too cool and wet in the spring and too dry and hot during the summer and early fall for maximum production. The crop of clover honey was fair but the flow from buckwheat was interrupted by dry weather which reduced the volume of nectar.

BIG GRAPE CROP

LATEST reports on the 1944 grape crop in Pennsylvania, compiled by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service, indicate production of 20,000 tons which will rank the State fifth in this respect for the entire United States. The crop will be 4,700 tons larger than that of 1943, and more than 2,000 tons above the average production for the 10-year period, 1933 to 1942.

Sugar content of Pennsylvania grapes was reported to be high this year, but dry weather was a limiting factor and the size of berries was smaller than usual.

FEEDING STUFFS ARE ANALYZED BY BUREAU

AS a check on the quality of livestock and poultry feeds offered for sale to farmers and others in Pennsylvania, and to protect purchasers against fraud and deception, the Bureau of Foods and Chemistry each year obtains and tests samples of feeding stuffs to see that the claims of manufacturers, as stated on bags or other containers, are correct.

Out of 720 official samples of feed obtained by Bureau agents during 1943, a total of 706 were selected for analysis through chemical, microscopic and other tests. Of this number, 117 or 16.5 per cent were found to be deficient in protein or fat and contained fiber in excess of the amount provided by State law. Samples that failed to meet manufacturer's guarantee for protein totaled 23, while 67 showed deficiency in fat and 27 contained too much fiber. Each manufacturer was notified of the nature and extent of discrepancies.

In addition to the 706 official samples tested, the Bureau received 160 special samples of feeding stuffs from Pennsylvania residents for analysis at a fee of $1 each, as required by law. This made a total of 866 official and special samples analyzed during the year.

The Bureau issued 1,198 licenses to 963 manufacturers who registered 5,627 brands of livestock and poultry feeds. Applications for licenses to sell feeding stuffs during 1945, and for registration of brands, should be submitted to the Bureau before January 1.

RAINS BOOST ROOT CROPS FOR MARKET

BENEFICIAL effects of September rains were such that fairly heavy marketings of root vegetables from Pennsylvania commercial areas are expected by the end of October and early November, according to surveys by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Yields of cabbage in the southeast section so far have been better than anticipated. The crops developed rapidly. Harvesting will be active in all areas until about mid-November. In the northern areas much Danish cabbage spoiled in the fields due to cracking, and considerable quantities will likely be used for sauerkraut.

Early October rains spoiled that portion of the tomato crop remaining on vines and only a few green fruits were left to pick before the heavy frost of October 16. Yields of "green-wraps" in northern counties were about average, despite dry weather.

Many carrots rotted in the ground in the Bucks-Philadelphia area since the mid-September hurricane, and marketings have been rather light. Late plantings are making good growth. Harvesting in volume will continue through November. Many carrots and beets will be stored for winter marketing.

Celery in the southeast has recovered somewhat from the stunted and blighted condition prior to the rains but is making slow growth. Much of the crop will be small sizes and supplies will be light because of reduced plantings. Harvest should peak by mid-November.

With favorable weather, spinach should be in good supply by November 1 from the Bucks-Philadelphia area. Late plantings, which will likely be carried over for spring harvest, are showing fairly even stands.

QUALITY TOBACCO

NOT only is Pennsylvania's 1944 crop of 49,118,000 pounds of Seedleaf tobacco of bumper proportions, but it is of high quality. September rains were beneficial to the crop. About 90 per cent of the tobacco was cut by October 1, the Crop Reporting Service says. Yield per acre is placed at 1,475 pounds compared with 1,260 last year when the total crop was 39,564,000 pounds.

Growth of Havana Seed was somewhat retarded by hot and dry weather during August and the forepart of September. The crop of 450,000 pounds is the same as last year.

PHILADELPHIA AREA REPORTS FEWER JAP BEETLES THIS YEAR

NO additional infestations of the Japanese beetle were discovered in Pennsylvania this year and a substantial decrease in the number of the pests was found in the Philadelphia area, according to Dr. Thomas L. Guyton, director, Bureau of Plant Industry, reviewing the year's activities in the State's fight for elimination of the beetle.

In a few areas west of the general area of heavy infestation—that section of the State south and east of Harrisburg—the beetle population increased somewhat during 1944. These spots are for the most part along railway rights of way, although a few have evidently started from accidental distribution of the beetle by the transportation of its grubs in soil, Dr. Guyton reported.

In the Philadelphia district the infestation was lighter than in 1943. Beetles were practically absent along the water fronts, public squares and business sections of the city.

There have been no heavy flights of beetles in the Philadelphia area since 1934. Previous to that time it was a common occurrence each summer beginning in 1925, for the beetles to take to the air on certain days and literally swarm over everything. Only 81 beetles were taken from 5,436 units of cut flowers offered for inspection in Philadelphia in 1944.

During the summer the milky disease of the Japanese beetle grub was distributed over about one-third of York County, and the following points outside the area of general infestation: Williamsport, Lock Haven, Ashland and Freeport. Also, during the season, colonies of the Korean Wasp, Tiphia species, were distributed in these same outlying areas.

CONSUMERS URGED TO BUY APPLES EARLY

WITH Pennsylvania apples more plentiful than for several years, now is a good time for consumers to lay in a bushel or more of their favorite varieties, the Bureau of Markets, advises. Also, plenty of apple cidar will be available.

While a large portion of the Keystone crop is being processed into apple sauce, apple butter, jelly, apple juice and slices for pies, plenty of fresh fruit is now available at ceiling prices or less, according to D. M. James, in charge of the Bureau's fruit and vegetable division.

It is suggested that consumers who have proper storage facilities will be wise to buy their winter supply of apples now. Fewer commercial apple packing houses are grading and storing apples this year than usual, chiefly because of labor and container shortages.

Built-in storage compartments in home cellars are usually safe for keeping apples, provided temperature and moisture can be controlled to prevent rapid ripening and shriveling of the fruit.

Favorite Pennsylvania varieties now available on the markets include the old stand-by all-purpose Stayman for both cooking and eating out-of-hand, also Grimes, Jonathan and Golden Delicious. For eating only there are the popular Red Delicious and Macintosh. Yorks are favored for cooking and late keeping.

Ranking fourth among all states in commercial apple production this year, the 9 million bushel Pennsylvania crop is 4 million bushels greater than last year, and about on a par with the 10-year average. The War Food Administration has announced that 83 per cent of the national apple crop of 125 million bushels will be available this year for civilians, or 13 pounds more per capita than last.

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HEAVY MOVEMENT OF POTATOES DRAINS THE SOUTHEAST SUPPLY

MARKETING of Pennsylvania potatoes has been unusually heavy this fall and buyers who ordinarily obtain supplies in York, Lancaster, Lehigh and other southeastern counties, already have turned to growers in other areas because sufficient supplies are no longer available in quantity, the Bureau of Markets reported recently.

In other years a large volume of cobblers and a few other early potatoes have been stored by growers in the southeastern counties, but this year the supply appeared to be unusually light since yields were off and sales heavy, according to D. M. James, in charge of the fruit and vegetable division. Late varieties generally are in growers' hands, being held for later sales.

Variable yield, size and quality are reported for late potatoes in the southeast and in Berks, Lehigh, Northampton, and Schuylkill Counties. Many growers had short yields and most report a large percentage of Grade B or smaller size.

Preliminary estimates by Bureau inspectors show fewer potatoes will meet requirements of the U. S. No. 1 grade. Blight damage was not heavy this year but a considerable loss in quality is expected during the winter from internal discoloration.

Sales of the 1944 crop prior to November 1 were heavier than sales of the 1943 crop to the same date last year. More carloads had been shipped and there was greater movement by motor truck and sales at the farm compared with a year ago. Indications by November 1 were for a smaller volume of potatoes stored than last year for late sale.

Grape harvest has been completed, with yields up to all expectations, about 2 tons per acre.

The manner in which late apples attained size after the September rains was an agreeable surprise to growers. Although some of the larger growers are not storing any fruit, the volume of packed U. S. No. 1 fruit in storage will not be heavier than last year. The volume of unclassified apples for storage will far exceed 1943.

This year is expected to be the heaviest on record for canning apples. Some canners are storing apples in open fields with corn fodder for covering, until they can be processed. The canneries have been booked three weeks ahead on deliveries, some on a 24-hour-a-day basis. The canners have their own storages (cold and common) filled, and have rented a greater amount of commercial cold storage space than ever before. The worm damage is fully as heavy, if not heavier, than anticipated.

STRAWBERRY ACREAGE 3,100 FOR NEXT YEAR

FEWER strawberries are in prospect from Pennsylvania growers next year than the short crop of 1944—unless growing conditions next spring are much more favorable than last.

A recent survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service showed that growers express intentions to reduce the total 1945 strawberry cropping acreage by 400 acres below the 3,500 harvested in the 1944 late spring season.

The contemplated 3,100 acres for picking next spring will be 55 per cent old beds compared with 35 per cent this year. New beds next season will comprise only 45 per cent of the total acreage, compared with 65 per cent harvested last spring.

Nationally, the total acreage for next season will be 1 per cent below that of 1944, but 43 per cent below the 10-year average, 1934 to 1943. Florida growers will increase their acreage for the coming winter harvest by 50 per cent over that harvested last winter.

BETTER RECORDS IN EGG LAYING CONTEST

AMERICAN chickens are getting better at their job of laying eggs. Not only have they produced eggs in record numbers from record wartime farm flocks for the past two years, but they have become more efficient through laying more eggs per year per hen, according to records for the first four weeks of the 1944-45 Pennsylvania Official Egg Laying Test.

In the last official Pennsylvania test, conducted in 1942-43, at the end of the first four weeks the 1,079 birds averaged 46.90 per cent production, or a little less than one egg every two days. In the current contest this percentage jumped to 65.50, or a gain of 18.60 per cent.

"Better breeding, efficient management and feeding appear to be the answer to this remarkable record," said E. J. Lawless, Jr., in charge of the poultry and egg division.

Points are awarded on weight of eggs, based on one full point for each 2-ounce egg. This year's 1,196 birds from all parts of the United States so far average nearly 17 points per bird compared with less than 13 points attained in the same period in the last contest.

The best pen after the first four weeks was reported to be one of Rhode Island Reds entered by the Harco Orchards Poultry Farm, South Easton, Massachusetts, with a total of 331 eggs and 335.45 points.

Three Pennsylvania pens of White Leghorns rank among the first ten to date. The highest Leghorn pen ranks fourth in the entire contest. It is the entry owned by George M. Anthony, Strausstown, Berks County, 331 eggs and 315.15 points; eighth place is held by Burr's Poultry Farm, Tunkhannock, Wyoming County, 310 eggs and 302.0 points; ninth place is held by Guy A. Leader, York, 316 eggs and 301.75 points.

OFF-FARM GRAINS LOWER THIS YEAR

STOCKS of corn, oats, barley and rye held in Pennsylvania in off-farm storages, except terminal markets and bins of the C.C.C., were lower on October 1 of this year than on the same date in 1943, according to a recent Federal-State survey.

Corn holdings in such storage places on October 1 totaled 240,000 bushels compared with 330,000 on the same date last year. Oats on hand totaled 565,000 bushels, only 5,000 less than a year earlier. Barley holdings dropped to 180,000 bushels compared with 425,000 a year ago. Rye in storage totaled 40,000 bushels which was 10,000 less than on the same date in 1943.

Stocks of wheat held in interior mills, elevators, and warehouses in Pennsylvania on October 1 totaled 1,035,000 bushels compared with 900,000 on hand a year earlier. For the 8-year period, 1935 to 1942, the average holdings of wheat in these storage places was 1,418,000 bushels.

CHESTER FIRST IN LIVESTOCK PER FARM

CHESTER COUNTY ranks first in the State in the value of livestock and chickens per farm, according to records of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. Although Lancaster ranks fourth in value per farm it stands first in total value by counties. The five highest ranking counties for 1943 are as follows:

Value of livestock and chickens per farm—Chester, $2,613; Susquehanna, $2,560; Lebanon, $2,465; Lancaster, $2,395; and Wayne, $2,269.

Total value of livestock and chickens by counties—Lancaster, $20,224,070; Chester, $11,209,460; York, $10,650,760; Berks, $10,200,610; and Bradford, $8,711,580.

PURCHASING POWER OF FARMERS' DOLLAR 3c BELOW YEAR AGO

WHILE the average level of prices received by farmers for all farm products during the month ended October 15 was the same as a year ago, the purchasing power of the Pennsylvania farmer's dollar was 3 cents less than on October 15, 1943, on the basis of the dollar being worth 100 cents for the 1909-14 period.

According to a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service, the purchasing power of the farmer's dollar is now $1.22 compared with a value of $1.25 a year earlier.

On the basis of 1909-14 averages the index of prices received by Pennsylvania farmers for principal agricultural products increased one point during the month to 207. All grain crops declined in price, with the exception of wheat and soybeans which registered advances of 2 cents and 5 cents per bushel respectively. However, the crop losses—which totaled 13 points—were off-set by an increase of 7 points in the livestock and livestock products index to 208.

Meat animals advanced 2 points, dairy products 5 points, and poultry and eggs 13 points. Price comparisons follow:

	Oct. 15 1943	Sept. 15 1944	Oct. 15 1944
Wheat, Bu.	$ 1.59	$ 1.44	$ 1.46
Corn, Bu.	1.27	1.45	1.41
Oats, Bu.	.86	.80	.78
Barley, Bu.	1.22	1.22	1.20
Rye, Bu.	1.17	1.22	1.21
Buckwheat, Bu.	1.13	1.23	1.09
Soybeans, Bu.	1.00	1.95	2.00
Potatoes, Bu.	1.65	2.00	1.85
Hay, loose, Ton	14.80	16.00	16.60
Apples, Bu.	2.30	2.10	1.90
Hogs, Cwt.	14.50	14.10	14.60
Beef Cattle, Cwt.	11.20	12.60	12.70
Veal Calves, Cwt.	14.60	15.30	15.30
Sheep, Cwt.	5.80	4.85	4.65
Lambs, Cwt.	12.70	13.00	13.00
Milk Cows, head	157.00	151.00	148.00
Horses, head	132.00	120.00	115.00
Mules, head	141.00	132.00	134.00
Chickens, Lb.	.288	.268	.272
Turkeys, Lb.	.37	.36	.38
Milk, whlse, Cwt.	3.65	3.60	3.70
Milk, retail, Qt.	.142	.143	.143
Butter, Lb.	.49	.48	.49
Butterfat, Lb.	.50	.49	.50
Eggs, Doz.	.523	.420	.464
Wool, Lb.	.43	.45	.43

LANCASTER LEADS PA. IN MILK PRODUCTION

FARMERS of the State, aided by the recovery of pastures following the heavy September rains, are making an effort to keep milk production up to or ahead of last year to meet increasing demands. Latest reports show that grain feeding has been heavier. Milk production usually drops off at this time of year as the number of "dry" cows increases, and will recover after the first of the year as more cows freshen.

Milk production in Pennsylvania is now approaches 600 million pounds per year and the value exceeds $180,000,000. Lancaster leads all counties in both production and value, 35,640,440 pounds last year worth $11,404,940. Chester is a close second with 29,889,520 pounds worth $10,461,330, according to latest available records of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Bradford County is third in production with close to 29 million pounds; Susquehanna fourth with nearly 24 million and Crawford fifth with more than 21 million pounds. These counties rank third, fourth and fifth, respectively, in the value of the milk produced.

3,700 HERDS TESTED

THE Bureau of Animal Industry conducted Bang disease tests on nearly 3,700 herds containing approximately 43,000 cattle during October on Pennsylvania farms. The tests showed that only 3.1 per cent of the cattle tested were infected with the disease, a total of 1,353. The disease was prevalent in 552, or 15 per cent of the herds tested during that period.

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FALL WEATHER AIDS LATE CROPS; WHEAT MAKES GOOD GROWTH

FALL weather conditions have been most helpful to farmers and winter grains are making excellent growth, according to the November 1 Pennsylvania general crop report of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Weather was ideal for harvest and the absence of killing frost until mid-October enabled many late-planted crops to reach maturity. Some wheat fields were seeded quite late and a few were still to be sown by the first of the month.

However, present pastures have become very short, especially southeast of the mountains. This has made it necessary for many farmers to start heavy stable feeding of cattle during late summer and early fall. Hay and roughage supplies are less than usual, due to the dry summer which reduced second and third cuttings of hay. Fall rains improved the water situation somewhat although wells and springs are quite low and the sub-soil is still too dry in some localities.

There is still a considerable acreage of corn to husk. The holding off of frost aided in maturing the crop. Yields are turning out about as well as had been expected earlier. Buckwheat threshing is continuing in most of the northern counties.

Growth of soybeans, which had been retarded by dry weather, has definitely caused a decline in yield prospects. The shortage of combines and the lateness of the usual harvesting time may find that some fields intended for beans will be used for other purposes.

Weather favored potato harvest and in most localities digging was completed by November 1. Largely because of the many small sized potatoes, growers estimate that 70 per cent will grade U. S. No. 1, the same as their estimate for the 1943 crop.

Late Crop Estimates

Increases in the estimated Pennsylvania farm production of potatoes, tobacco and buckwheat as of November 1, compared with estimates reported on October 1, are announced in the general crop report. Estimates for all other general crops showed no change during the month.

The State's potato crop estimates increased 3 per cent to a total of 19,140,000 bushels. This is better than half a million bushels above October 1 estimates, also last year's production of 18,656,000 bushels.

Tobacco production is now estimated at 50,415,000 pounds, an increase of 2 per cent over October 1 estimates, and 26 per cent higher than 1943 production.

Buckwheat production estimates advanced 5 per cent during the month to a total of 3,140,000 bushels, which is 25 per cent higher than 1943.

Production of corn is estimated at 53,124,000 bushels, or 8 per cent higher than last year.

Winter wheat will total 20,108,000 bushels which is 51 per cent above the 13,277,000 bushels produced last year.

Oats production of 23,712,000 bushels is 59 per cent ahead of the 1943 crop.

Barley dropped 15 per cent below last year and the 1943 crop is estimated at 2,332,000 bushels.

The rye crop of 666,000 bushels is 7 per cent higher than last year. Hay dropped off 7 per cent to an estimated production of 3,162,000 tons.

Apple production estimates remain at 9,100,000 bushels, the same as October 1. This is an increase of 79 per cent over the 1943 crop.

Peach production of 1,886,000 bushels is 60 per cent higher than last year.

The pear crop of 464,000 bushels is 267 per cent higher than last year's short crop of 174,000 bushels, but is still below the ten-year average production of 558,000 bushels, 1933-42.

The grape crop of 19,500 tons represents a drop of 500 tons from the October 1 estimates, but is 27 per cent higher than 1943 production.

CONTROL EFFORTS AND DRY WEATHER REDUCE 1944 INFESTATION BY EUROPEAN CORN BORER

EUROPEAN CORN BORER infestation of farm and garden crops was greatly reduced during the 1944 season and the pest spread into only one additional county, according to a state-wide survey made by field inspectors of the Bureau of Plant Industry. The pest now has been recorded in 28 counties of the State.

Cooperative control efforts of farmers and Victory gardeners in shredding, burning or plowing under all old corn stalks and stubble and heavy stemmed plants and weeds, together with the hot and dry weather of late summer, are mostly responsible for cutting down the borer population this year, Dr. Thomas L. Guyton, director of the Bureau, declared.

Although infestation was reduced by more than 50 per cent in some counties, substantial increases were found in four counties—Armstrong, Juniata, Lycoming and Perry, and the pest was reported for the first time in Westmoreland.

"However, the situation is still serious," Dr. Guyton warned. "The need for continued control work is more urgent than ever, because we now have a better chance to reduce the borer infestation. There are still millions of worms in standing corn stalks and stubble, and they must be destroyed before spring."

Pennsylvania has two kinds of corn borers. What is known as the single brood or one-generation borer invaded Erie County in 1919, and spread over the northwestern part of the State. The double brood or two-generation borer came into Bucks County in 1938 and is now found in nearly all counties east and south of Centre County. Damage to sweet corn alone in 1943 was estimated to be in excess of $1,000,000.

Plant Industry surveys of the past three years were made on field corn only. Last year Bucks, Delaware and Montgomery Counties showed the heaviest infestation of corn borers of any counties in the United States. Bucks then had 95 of every 100 inspected stalks infested with an average of 13 worms. According to the survey this fall, this has been reduced to approximately 60 stalks per hundred, averaging only 3 borers each. In Delaware the occurrence was reduced from 89 stalks per hundred with 12 borers each, to 77.3 stalks with 4.7 borers.

Montgomery infestation was reduced from 80 stalks averaging 10 borers each, to 56.6 stalks with 4.5 worms each. Chester reduction was from 81 stalks and 9.8 borers to 61.5 stalks and 4 borers this year. While Lancaster County last year had an infestation of 97.7 stalks the average per stalk was only 3.4 borers, and this year it has been reduced to 32.6 stalks and 3.1 borers. The accompanying table gives survey results for the past three years.

EUROPEAN CORN BORER INFESTATION—1942, 1943, 1944

County	1942 Infested Stalks In 100	1942 Avr. No. Borers Per Stalk	1943 Infested Stalks In 100	1943 Avr. No. Borers Per Stalk	1944 Infested Stalks In 100	1944 Avr. No. Borers Per Stalk
Adams	18.5	1.8	19.1	2.75	3.4	1.0
Armstrong†	4.9	1.3	1.9	1.0	6.3	1.0
Berks	16.5	1.8	63.8	3.3	34.9	2.48
Bucks	59.5	5.5	95.4	13.2	59.8	3.1
Butler†	*	*	1.6	1.0	1.5	1.0
Centre†	9.7	1.0	18.9	1.32	5.7	1.02
Chester	22.8	2.3	80.9	9.85	61.5	4.0
Crawford†	9.5	1.1	33.4	1.5	13.0	1.1
Cumberland	1.4	1.4	17.0	1.9	7.0	1.4
Dauphin	*	*	32.5	2.55	11.0	1.85
Delaware	51.6	4.0	89.09	12.0	77.3	4.7
Erie†	31.6	1.3	62.7	3.9	14.6	1.36
Franklin	*	*	6.3	1.0	2.1	1.0
Indiana†	1.1	1.3	2.2	1.0	2.4	1.0
Juniata	*	*	5.7	2.3	9.0	2.17
Lancaster	23.3	1.45	97.7	3.4	32.6	3.14
Lawrence†	*	*	5.4	1.0	4.5	1.0
Lebanon	1.0	1.9	35.3	2.3	16.2	2.22
Lehigh	33.5	2.7	54.6	3.1	37.7	2.41
Luzerne	*	*	22.3	2.52	14.9	1.20
Lycoming	*	*	7.5	1.0	11.0	1.52
Mercer†	*	*	26.7	1.91	9.7	1.55
Montgomery	64.7	5.1	80.18	10.0	56.6	4.5
Northampton	40.6	2.9	75.6	3.5	53.3	2.34
Perry	1.0	4.3	13.1	2.2	15.1	1.86
Union	0.0	0.0	7.5	3.75	7.5	1.16
Westmoreland†	*	*	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0
York	28.0	3.0	40.4	2.5	40.8	2.62

* No comparable survey made in 1942.
† Single-brood corn borer infestation.

FLORIDA STORM LOSS AFFECTS PA. SUPPLY

SEVERE damage to fall vegetable crops in Florida, caused by the tropical hurricane of October 19 to 21, is expected to reduce the supply of winter vegetables and citrus fruits available to Pennsylvania consumers, according to a Federal-State report.

Florida snap beans suffered a loss of 71 per cent and the fall tomato crop is expected to be only one-fourth of pre-storm expectations. The loss of green peppers is estimated to be 85 per cent of the anticipated supply. Severe losses were reported also for celery and cabbage seed beds and young transplantings.

Citrus fruit losses in Florida may total approximately 10 million boxes below earlier forecasts for a heavy crop. About two-thirds of the losses are in varieties that normally would be marketed between October and January. The orange crop is expected to be 9 per cent less than last season. Grapefruit shipments are expected to be approximately 20,500,000 boxes compared with earlier expectations of 36 million boxes.

Pennsylvania's 9 million bushel apple crop temporarily will help consumers in this State to replace expected shortages of citrus fruits from the South, the Department reminded.

Open weather and above normal temperatures in recent weeks have enabled Pennsylvania commercial vegetable growers to leave root crops in the ground where they attained additional size that was badly needed in late planted fields.

Harvest of the late carrot crop for winter storage in the Bucks-Philadelphia section will be in full swing during November.

Late plantings of beets sized considerably during October and supplies for winter sales were expected to be about the same as usual. The cabbage crop was poor and spotty in the southeast.

Parsnips, turnips and rutabagas in the Bucks-Philadelphia area improved as a result of recent rains and were in good condition on November 1, when the survey was made. A few fields have been harvested but digging and storing of these crops will be well under way during late November.

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'44 VOLUME OF PEAS INSPECTED IS TWICE THAT OF LAST YEAR

MORE than twice as many peas were inspected for Pennsylvania canning plants during 1944 than in 1943 according to a preliminary report by the Bureau of Markets. Approximately 11,500,000 pounds of green peas were classified this year by Federal-State inspectors.

Demands of the Armed Forces and lend-lease have greatly increased pea acreage in Pennsylvania. When selling peas on the basis of standard grades, higher prices are obtained by the growers. Requests for the services of inspectors are increasing as processing plants expand their facilities.

Recently the pea acreage for canning has increased in northern sections of the State. Peas usually thrive best in cooler climate, and the Bureau of Markets looks for further expansion of this phase of agriculture in the northern tier and the mountainous sections of Pennsylvania in the post-war period.

This year's pea crop was of such size that 22 receiving stations were established for growers, compared with only five such stations set up in 1943. In order to train the large corps of inspectors necessary to handle the work at 22 stations, arrangements were made with the Maryland Department of Agriculture to hold an inspection school at Fruitland, Maryland, where peas are cut 10 days prior to the Pennsylvania harvest.

Pea inspection was started in Pennsylvania in 1935 when approximately one million pounds were graded. Improvements in grading methods have been incorporated into the service as they have been found to be helpful in more accurately determining the quality of peas.

Although peas have been graded at a few Pennsylvania canneries for the past 10 years, it was not until this year that the purchase of peas on the basis of State grades under Federal-State inspection became the general practice.

FRUIT PRODUCTION EXCEEDS AVERAGE

PRODUCTION of Pennsylvania apples, peaches and grapes this year not only was well ahead of last, but for each crop growers were able to exceed the average of production for the 10-year period, 1933 to 1942.

While the State's pear crop for this year was 167 per cent above the 1943 harvest, it was 94,000 bushels short of the 10-year average, according to November 1 Federal-State fruit crop surveys.

This year's commercial apple crop of 9,100,000 bushels is slightly more than 4 million bushels over the 1943 harvest, and exceeds the 9-year average by 14,000 bushels.

The 1944 peach crop of 1,886,000 bushels compares with 1,176,000 last year and the 10-year average of 1,628,000 bushels.

Production of grapes this year is estimated at 19,500 tons, or 4,200 more than the 1943 harvest and 1,650 tons above the average for 1933-42.

The estimated pear production this year is 464,000 bushels, compared with only 174,000 last year and the 10-year average of 558,000 bushels.

Pennsylvania apples finished nicely due to the late rains. In both size and quality the fruit exceeded earlier expectations. Cracking of the skin, expected by many growers following the rains, failed to develop to any extent. However, worm damage was extensive in many areas.

Grape harvest in the Erie belt was aided by ideal weather and extended to mid-October. Yields were good despite considerable damage by berry moth in some vineyards.

Nationally, production of all deciduous fruits this year is expected to be 20 percent above 1943 harvest and 9 per cent larger than average.

CREDITS FARMERS IN WARTIME PRODUCTION

REVIEWING the efforts of Pennsylvania farmers in food production during the past three war years, Secretary Horst recently credited farmers themselves with "a magnificent achievement in spite of serious shortages of skilled labor and machinery."

In an address at the Rothsville, Lancaster County Lion's Club Farmers Night dinner, he said Pennsylvania farmers have contributed to the war effort through longer hours of work and greater production of nearly all fruit and vegetable crops, milk, eggs, chickens, turkeys and swine. In practically all of these they should this year exceed production averages for the 10 years immediately preceding entry of the United States into the war.

"However," he said, "in general crop production, two drought years in succession plus shortages of labor and machinery—have prevented farmers from reaching pre-war averages except in scattered instances.

"This year for the first time in the war period the production of winter wheat passed the 10-year average, 1932 to 1941—years of depression and federal restrictions. In 1942 corn and oats production went a little ahead of that 10-year average. In all other war years each of these has been below the average for 1932-41. This year buckwheat and tobacco will exceed pre-war production. Hay and tobacco are the only general crops that have consistently been ahead in the three war years."

FEWER BRAMBLE PLANTINGS CERTIFIED

IN KEEPING with the trend of the past four years that has shown decreased interest in the growing of red and black raspberries and blackberries, only 85 bramble plantings in Pennsylvania were entered this year by growers for inspection and certification by the Bureau of Plant Industry.

The drop is due to nurserymen and other growers being able to obtain greater financial income from other sources in wartime, according to K. W. Lauer, in charge of plant and seed certification in the Bureau.

The 85 bramble planting entered for inspection for plant certification this year compare with 106 planting entered in 1943. A total of 73 plantings were certified and 12 rejected, compared with 80 plantings certified and 26 rejected last year. Rejections were on the basis of disease or other defect found on the growing plants.

Bramble plantings were certified in 17 counties as follows: Berks, Blair, Butler, Clarion, Columbia, Dauphin, Erie, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lawrence, Luzerne, Lycoming, Mercer, Snyder, Somerset and York.

Applications for inspection and certification of bramble plants during the coming year are due at the Bureau of Plant Industry on or before May 15, 1945.

CHRISTMAS TURKEYS

PARTIAL lifting of the U. S. Army embargo on sales of turkeys to civilians in the various turkey growing states on November 6 came too late to assure movement of turkeys to market in the larger consumer areas before Thanksgiving. This means that most of the remainder of the Nation's turkey crop should be on the move toward city markets in plenty of time for the Christmas trade.

Pennsylvania growers moved their larger birds for local Thanksgiving trade, but most of their stocks were held for the Christmas season in order that the birds could attain more size. The state this year has an all-time record crop of 1,285,000 turkeys. Few will be shipped outside the State.

LARGER POTATO CROP BECOMES IMPORTANT WARTIME FOOD ITEM

WITH THE 1944 national potato crop totaling approximately 77 million bushels less than last year, and the Pennsylvania crop nearly half a million bushels greater than that of 1943, the current Keystone crop becomes an important item in the State's wartime food basket.

October rains helped to add size to the Pennsylvania crop. On October 1 the production of potatoes was estimated at 18,645,000 bushels by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. Favorable weather conditions boosted the yield per acre during the month from 113 to 116 bushels. By November 1 total production from the State's 165,000 potato acreage was estimated at 19,140,000 bushels, a gain of close to half a million. At current support prices for top grade potatoes this gain alone should net growers an increase of more than $1,000,000, according to estimates.

National production of potatoes last year was in excess of needs, and this year acreages were reduced. In Pennsylvania the reduction amounted to 11,000 acres, or 6 per cent below the 176,000 acres harvested in 1943. Pennsylvania and California are the only leading late potato states to show an increase in production this year over last. The Maine crop of 58,025,000 bushels is about 15 million less than that of 1943.

Yields of Pennsylvania potatoes vary greatly, some growers reporting good crops and others near failure. Drought held down the size. Largely on account of so many small tubers, growers estimated 70 per cent of the crop will will grade U. S. No. 1. The Potter County plateau area harvested a heavy crop of smooth, good quality tubers. In western counties the October rains developed many oversized potatoes. In the southeastern drought area the rains brought on second growth which caused tubers to take on irregular shape and cut down the percentage of No. 1's.

BIG TOBACCO CROP; NO CIGARS TILL '46

IT WILL be two years before the 1944 bumper crop of unusually high quality cigar leaf tobacco can be made up into "smokes" and therefore cannot be counted upon to bring relief to the current shortage of cigars.

Manufacturers this year are using the 1942 crop of Pennsylvania cigar leaf tobacco, "sweated," aged and mellowed to the point where it meets requirements for quality cigars. The crop that year was slightly more than 42 million pounds. Last year production dropped to 40 million pounds, but this year it is estimated to total 50,415,000 pounds. Average production of Pennsylvania tobacco over the 10-year period, 1932 to 1941, was slightly less than 39 million pounds.

The Federal-State Crop Reporting Service in its annual November 1 survey of tobacco crop condition, said the Pennsylvania Seedleaf harvest was completed early in October with very little frost damage reported. While rains helped the late plantings, the earlier plantings turned out best. The in-between plantings were most affected by drought.

Generally, curing weather has been favorable. The crop shows large leaves with what growers call "nice color and burn" and is of good weight. Some early crops are being stripped with not so many fillers as usual being reported.

The Pennsylvania Havana Seed crop totals 465,000 pounds compared with 450,000 last year. Seedleaf totals 49,950,000 pounds against 39,564,000 in 1943.

STATE FARM SHOW MEETINGS—HARRISBURG—JANUARY 9, 10, 11, 1945

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Miles Horst, Secretary of Agriculture

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1945 FARM SHOW WEEK MEETING SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED FOR 22 STATE-WIDE ASSOCIATIONS

THE 1945 Pennsylvania State Farm Show Week meetings of more than twenty state-wide agricultural associations will be held January 9, 10 and 11, the earliest the event has been scheduled for many years.

The earlier date according to Secretary Horst, Chairman of the State Farm Show Commission, is designed to bring an expected four or five thousand farm people to Harrisburg when the State Legislature recesses for a week following its organization and thereby avoid overcrowding hotels and restaurants. Wide interest is being shown in the forthcoming gatherings, the Secretary reports.

"There will be no exhibits in the State Farm Show Building because the Army has taken it over for the duration of the war," he said.

"Our farmers have seldom faced a more critical time. I find they want to get together, swap experiences on the many wartime problems that bother them, and try to figure out what their chief post-war problems may be and how they can best handle them.

"Members of the Farm Show Commission look for a turnout that may equal or exceed the 1944 Show Week meeting attendance of close to 5,000 farm men and women."

Twenty-two state-wide farm organizations already have scheduled meetings of from half a day to three full days, including 18 that met during the January 1944 Farm Show Week. Additional groups that will meet next January include the Pennsylvania Country Life Association, the Pennsylvania Crop Improvement Association, the Pennsylvania Rural Safety Committee, the Ayrshire Breeders' Association and the 4-H Club Local Leaders.

While a number of groups will start their sessions on Tuesday morning or afternoon, January 9, the formal opening will take place that evening in the Forum of the Education Building.

Following is a preliminary listing of day-by-day sessions of the 1945 State Farm Show Week meetings, giving the time and place for each:

Tuesday Morning, January 9

9:30 A. M. Crop Improvement Association—Education Building, Room 321.

9:50 A. M. Vegetable Growers' Association—Chestnut Street Hall, Assembly Room.

10:00 A. M. State Horticultural Association—Chestnut Street Hall, Auditorium.

Tuesday Afternoon

1:00 A. M. Christmas Tree Growers' Association—House Caucus Room, 140 Main Capitol.

1:00 P. M. State Horticultural Association—Chestnut Street Hall, Auditorium.

1:20 P. M. Vegetable Growers' Association—Chestnut Street Hall, Assembly Room.

1:30 P. M. 4-H Club Local Leaders—Harrisburg Chamber of Commerce.

1:30 P. M. Crop Improvement Association—Education Building, Room 321.

2:00 P. M. Rural Safety Committee—House Caucus Room, 326 Main Capitol.

2:00 P. M. Swine Breeders—Senate Caucus Room, 156 Main Capitol.

Tuesday Evening

7:30 P. M. General Meeting, all Groups — Education Building Forum.

Wednesday Morning, January 10

8:00 A. M. Country Life Association—Central Y. M. C. A.

9:30 A. M. Society of Farm Women of Pennsylvania—Education Building, Forum.

9:30 A. M. Future Farmers of America—Chapel of Memorial Lutheran Church.

9:30 A. M. State Beekeepers' Association—Education Building, Room 321.

9:30 A. M. State Poultry Federation—House Caucus Room, 140 Main Capitol.

9:50 A. M. Vegetable Growers' Association—Chestnut Street Hall, Assembly Room.

10:00 A. M. Guernsey Breeders' Association—Penn Harris Hotel, Assembly Room.

10:00 A. M. Jersey Cattle Club—Senate Caucus Room, 156 Main Capitol.

10:00 A. M. State Horticultural Association—Chestnut Street Hall, Auditorium.

10:30 A. M. Holstein Association—House Caucus Room, 326 Main Capitol.

Wednesday Afternoon

Luncheons

12:30 P. M. Ayshire Breeders' Association—Penn Harris Hotel, Parlor A.

1:00 P. M. Guernsey Breeders' Association—Penn Harris Hotel, Ballroom.

1:00 P. M. Jersey Cattle Club—Official Dining Room, Basement of Main Capitol.

Meetings

1:00 P. M. State Horticultural Assotion—Chestnut Street Hall, Auditorium.

1:20 P. M. Vegetable Growers' Association—Chestnut Street Hall, Assembly Room. Business Session at 1:30 P. M.

1:30 P. M. State Poultry Federation—House Caucus Room, 140 Main Capitol.

1:30 P. M. Future Farmers of America—Memorial Lutheran Church.

1:30 P. M. Society of Farm Women of Pennsylvania—Education Building, Forum.

1:30 P. M. Holstein Association—House Caucus Room, 326 Main Capitol.

1:30 P. M. State Beekeepers' Association—Education Building, Room 321.

2:00 P. M. Jersey Cattle Club—Senate Caucus Room, 156 Main Capitol.

Wednesday Evening

Banquets

6:00 P. M. Future Farmers of America—Memorial Lutheran Church.

6:00 P. M. Dairymen's Association—Penn Harris Hotel, Ballroom.

6:30 P. M. State Beekeepers' Association—Sixth Street United Brethren Church.

6:30 P. M. Society of Farm Women of Pennsylvania—Fifth Street Methodist Church.

Thursday Morning January 11

9:00 A. M. Future Farmers of America—Memorial Lutheran Church.

9:30 A. M. State Beekeepers' Association—Education Building, Room 321.

9:30 A. M. Potato Growers' Association—House Caucus Room, 326 Main Capitol.

9:30 A. M. Turkey Growers — House Caucus Room, 140 Main Capitol.

9:45 A. M. Dairymen's Association—Education Building, Forum.

9:50 A. M. Vegetable Growers' Association—Chestnut Street Hall, Assembly Room.

10:00 A. M. State Horticultural Association—Chestnut Street Hall, Auditorium.

10:00 A. M. Nut Growers' Association—Harrisburg Chamber of Commerce.

10:00 A. M. Livestock Breeders' Association—Senate Caucus Room, 156 Main Capitol.

Thursday Afternoon

1:00 P. M. Dairymen's Association—Education Building, Forum.

1:00 P. M. State Horticultural Association—Chestnut Street Hall, Auditorium.

1:15 P. M. Turkey Growers — House Caucus Room, 140 Main Capitol.

1:20 P. M. Vegetable Growers' Association—Chestnut Street Hall, Assembly Room.

1:30 P. M. Potato Growers' Association—House Caucus Room, 326 Main Capitol. Business Meeting at 4:00 P. M.

1:30 P. M. Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association—Education Building, Room 321.

1:30 P. M. Nut Growers' Association—Harrisburg Chamber of Commerce.

1:30 P. M. Future Farmers of America—Memorial Lutheran Church.

Thursday Evening

7:30 P. M. Potato Growers' Association—House Caucus Room, 326 Main Capitol.

Friday Morning, January 12

10:00 A. M. Potato Growers' Association—House Caucus Room, 326 Main Capitol.

Friday Afternoon

1:30 P. M. Potato Growers' Association—House Caucus Room, 326 Main Capitol.

Friday Evening

Banquet

5:30 P. M. Potato Growers' Association—Penn Harris Hotel, Ballroom.

MILK PRODUCTION STAGES COMEBACK WITH 9 PCT. RISE

DUE LARGELY to rains that kept pastures green, and a greater supply of grain in their bins and cribs than a year earlier, Pennsylvania farmers were able to stop declining milk production when their cows gave 399 million pounds during the month of October.

According to the November 1 survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service, milk production for October showed no drop from September but jumped 9 per cent ahead of the same month in 1943.

Also aiding the recovery in milk production—which for a year and a half had been below monthly outputs of the previous year—was the fact that during October the number of milk cows continued at the relatively high level pervailing in August and September. The percentage of cows milked during the month was one point above that reported on November 1, 1943.

Increased production was first noticed in August when the total output for Pennsylvania was 2 per cent above August of 1943. September production also showed a 2 per cent advance over that for the previous September.

The jump to 9 per cent in October, therefore, is taken by observers to indicate that dairy farmers may have overcome the milk production slump that has existed since January 1943.

Production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents was six-tenths of a pound lower on November 1, 1944 than a month previous, but it was four-tenths of a pound above the same date a year ago.

Nationally, milk production for October was 4 per cent greater than for the same month last year, and the decline from September was less than average.

FARM FLOCKS SET RECORD 37TH MONTH

FOR the 37th consecutive month Pennsylvania farm flocks in October produced more eggs than in the same month of the preceding year.

Production was 172 million eggs, or 16 million more than in October 1943, making a new all-time record for the period, according to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Mild and open weather during the month encouraged hens and pullets to increase individual production by almost one egg more than the average for October 1943. The rate of lay, or average production per bird, was 8 per cent above October a year ago and down 10 per cent from Sept. 1944.

There were 380,000 more layers this year than last, a total of 17,062,000, which was 11 per cent above September when only 1 million more eggs were produced.

Egg production for the 10-year period, January to October inclusive, this year was placed at 2,417,000,000, or 7 per cent above production during the same period of the previous year.

Commercial poultrymen cooperating in the survey were receiving this October about 11 per cent less for eggs and paying 2 per cent more per 100 pounds for feed compared with last October. It took the value of 83 eggs to buy 100 pounds of feed.

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STATE IS TWELFTH IN CERTIFIED SEED POTATOES THIS YEAR

CLOSE to 300,000 bushels of State certified seed potatoes were produced by Pennsylvania potato growers this year, the Bureau of Plant Industry reports. The actual total of 297,510 compares with 307,834 bushels of certified seed grown in 1943.

Pennsylvania this year ranks 12th in the production of certified seed potatoes among the 27 states that produced such seed this year, K. W. Lauer, in charge of the Bureau's seed certification activities, declared. The State ranks first in the production of certified White Rurals, second in Russets and third in Katahdins and Sebagos.

Growers this year entered 1,955 acres of potatoes for inspection by Bureau field representatives compared with 2,115 acres last year. There were 1,068 acres that passed all inspections this year against 1,183 acres approved in 1943. Rejections amounted to 45.3 per cent of the total entered for inspection.

Rejections were on account of defects of various kinds, including disease, unfavorable growing conditions, and for not being properly isolated from other diseased potatoes. Traces of scab were present in some fields but no serious infections were found. In some scattered instances the dreaded ring rot was found, resulting in immediate rejection by State inspectors.

Seed potatoes were certified this year in 15 counties: Berks, Bradford, Butler, Cambria, Elk, Indiana, Lehigh, Mercer, Monroe, Potter, Somerset, Sullivan, Tioga, Warren and Wyoming.

Varieties certified in the order of importance in total production were Katahdin, Russet Rural, Sebago, White Rural, Sequoia, Houma, Nittany Cobbler, Irish Cobbler and Potomac.

The average yield per acre of the 1944 crop of certified seed was 278.5 bushels, slightly higher than the 260.1 bushel average for the 1943 crop.

HEAVY DEMAND FOR PENNSYLVANIA SPUDS

STRONG demand for Pennsylvania-grown potatoes has forced the shipping price up as much as 20 to 30 cents per hundred pounds in most of the larger potato producing areas of Pennsylvania, the Bureau of Markets reported at the beginning of December.

State potato growers are being called upon to supply a large share of orders placed by the Armed Forces. These must be U. S. No. 1 grade, passed by Federal-State inspectors.

Carlot shipments of Pennsylvania potatoes through November 25th totaled approximately 403 compared with 201 cars to the same date last year. Truck shipments have shown a corresponding increase, according to D. M. James, in charge of the fruit and vegetable division.

Heavy movement of Pennsylvania potatoes is also due in part to the fact that shipments into the State from other potato growing areas of the country have been lighter than usual. Many Keystone growers have been anxious to dispose of their stocks before cold weather. They also recall surplus stocks of last spring.

Mr. James reported that apple shipments to December first in Pennsylvania exceed those of last year about 2 to 1 but are still light for a large crop year. Canners are experiencing a severe loss from the early ripening, decay and internal breakdown of the fruit due to excessive rainfall and warm weather after the fruit had started to mature.

Large amounts of canning apples now held in common storage or stacked in fields will be entirely useless for canning, Mr. James said. Better grades of fresh apples for consumer sales continue scarce, he added.

20 MILLION BUSHELS MORE FEED GRAINS

FARMERS of Pennsylvania have started the 1944-45 feeding season with much better prospects than they faced a year ago. They have grown and stored about 20 million bushels more of feed grains than in 1943 and thereby have aided themselves in avoiding another serious shortage of livestock and poultry feeds.

Barley is the only 1944 grain crop that turned out to be smaller than 1943 production. according to what are practically end-of-the-year surveys by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

While thousands of tons of corn, wheat, other grains and concentrates must be imported from surplus producing states to maintain present numbers of livestock and poultry in Pennsylvania, the 1944 home grown grain production in the following amounts will assist in maintaining the wartime output of meat animals, milk and other dairy products, poultry and eggs:

Corn, 53,124,000 bushels, about 4 million more than last year; wheat, 20,108,000 bushels, nearly 7 million more than 1943; oats, 23,712,000 bushels, close to 9 million over 1943; rye, 666,000 bushels, 42,000 more than last year; and buckwheat, 3,140,000 bushels, more than half a million over last year.

Barley dropped 418,000 bushels below 1943 production of 2,750,000 bushels, due to a 30 per cent reduction in acreage devoted to that crop. Hay acreage was reduced 3 per cent, the crop of 3,162,000 tons being 237,000 under 1943.

Most of the grain increases this year came through farmers expanding their 1943 acreages—8 per cent for corn, 17 per cent for wheat, 9 per cent for oats, and 19 per cent for buckwheat. This meant longer hours in the fields for farmers, hired hands and members of their families.

BABY CHICK OUTLOOK REPORTED IMPROVED

PENNSYLVANIA farm flock owners appear to be getting in better position to maintain later supplies of poultry meat than are poultrymen in some other sections of the country.

Through the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service it is learned that an improved outlook for baby chick orders prevails, due in part to the greater 1944 feed production on Pennsylvania farms.

There is also a continued and steady demand for chicks for the production of broilers. Meanwhile, hatcherymen throughout the State report a scarcity of hatching eggs.

The report showed that while the number of commercially hatched baby chicks produced in the United States in October was about one-third less than the number produced in October of last year, in Pennsylvania the reduction was only 3 per cent.

On the other hand, chick production for the month was 57 per cent above the average output from 1938 to 1942, indicating that poultry numbers in the State are far ahead of prewar figures, and that both poultry meat and egg production should be ample.

The consensus of observers is that Pennsylvania flocks have been greatly reduced and should be cut down further to avoid over-production of eggs again next spring. Last January there were 19 million laying hens and pullets on Pennsylvania farms. By October there were 17 million.

The total number of chicks produced from Pennsylvania hatcheries during October was 1,845,000 compared with 1,902,000 for the same month last year. From January through October production was 17 per cent below the same period in 1943. Nationally, this reduction was 24 per cent.

WAR BONDS REPLACE BLUE RIBBONS FOR FARM SHOW AWARDS

WAR BONDS for production of food for war appropriately will replace blue ribbons as awards in the 28th annual Pennsylvania State Farm Show Week meetings January 9-11, the Farm Show Commission reports.

Prior to the war—when the Farm Show proper consisted of hundreds of exhibits of livestock, poultry, food and other exhibits in the Farm Show Building—blue, red and white ribbons were awarded winners. This year, with no exhibits, some agricultural organizations will award war bonds to farmer members or others who have achieved unusual records in food production.

Among these is the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association which will give a $25 bond to the grower who this year obtained the largest tomato yield and another $25 bond for the best quality crop in the 10-ton per acre production class.

Secretary Horst will present the awards at one of the eight sessions planned by the association for the week. Awards totaling $100 for outstanding production will be made to vegetable growers by the Campbell Soup Company and the H. J. Heinz Company.

Other prizes at Farm Show Week meetings will include breed association awards at the annual banquet of the Dairymen's Association, 400-Bushel Potato Club medals by the Potato Growers' Association, food preservation prizes by the Society of Farm Women, and the Future Farmers of America plaque and project medals.

400,000 PIGS FOR FARM BUTCHERINGS

BUTCHERING time has arrived on Pennsylvania farms. According to latest available records, farm families of Pennsylvania annually slaughter over 400,000 pigs worth more than $10,300,000. While most of the meat is held for consumption on the farm, a goodly part is sold to customers in towns and cities and at farmers' markets.

As freezer lockers become more plentiful observers say there will be an increasing tendency on the part of urban consumers to buy larger quantities of pork, and farm butchering days in the post-war period may be expected to be busier and more frequent in meeting such demands.

The Pennsylvania pig crop in the fall of 1943 totaled approximately 760,000 and last spring, when pork became too plentiful throughout the nation, the pig crop was 598,000.

BEES HAVE FOOD

BEE INSPECTORS of the Bureau of Plant Industry report that honey bees generally appear to have stored up a sufficient amount of surplus honey as food to last them over the winter months and many colonies will not have to be fed with sugar by their owners.

Because of the many warm, clear days this fall, honey plants yielded their maximum amount of nectar to provide natural food for the bees. Colonies are reported to be in better shape at this time than they have been for the past two years.

ENFORCE DOG LAW

MOSTLY through the efforts of local police officers who are cooperating in enforcement of the Pennsylvania dog law, 1,763 stray and uncontrolled dogs were killed during the month of October, according to the Bureau of Animal Industry. This compares with a total of 1,998 dogs killed in the previous month. During October there were 305 prosecutions for violations of the dog law.

STATE FARM SHOW MEETINGS—HARRISBURG—JANUARY 9, 10, 11, 1945

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FARM SHOW WEEK MEETINGS JAN. 9-11 MAY ATTRACT 5,000

ALTHOUGH there will be no exhibits in the mammoth Farm Show Building during the 1945 Pennsylvania State Farm Show Week January 9-11, close to 5,000 members of 22 state-wide farm organizations are expected to attend educational meetings arranged under the direction of the State Farm Show Commission.

Miles Horst, Secretary of Agriculture and chairman of the Commission, reports that secretaries of the various farm groups have given estimates of attendance totaling more than 4,800.

While formal opening of the week's program of meetings is set for Tuesday night, January 9, seven agricultural organizations will start meetings that day. Three start sessions in the morning: the State Horticultural Association, the Vegetable Growers Association, and the Pennsylvania Crop Improvement Association. Those starting with afternoon sessions on Tuesday include the Christmas Tree Growers' Association, 4-H Club Leaders, the Pennsylvania Rural Safety Committee and the annual meeting of various swine breeding associations.

The Society of Farm Women starts all-day sessions on Wednesday morning, January 10, along with the Country Life Association, the Future Farmers of America, Beekeepers Association, State Poultry Federation, Guernsey Breeders, Jersey Cattle Club and the Holstein Association.

Ayrshire Breeders start Wednesday afternoon, and the Dairymen's Association opens its meetings with a banquet that evening. The Potato Growers' Association starts its annual two-day meeting on Thursday morning, closing with a banquet Friday evening the 12th. Turkey Growers, Nut Growers and the Livestock Breeders' Association start Thursday morning and the Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association meets that afternoon.

Preliminary to the Farm Show Week meetings, the Pennsylvania State Council of Farm Organizations has scheduled a banquet for Monday evening, January 8. This group is made up of member delegates elected by more than 30 state-wide farm organizations.

FAVORITE CHIPPING POTATO RUNNING LOW

POTATO CHIP manufacturers face a possible shortage soon of their favorite variety of Pennsylvania grown spuds, D. M. James, in charge of the fruit and vegetable division, Bureau of Markets, reports.

From long experience it has been found that the variety of potatoes known as Rural Russet makes the best and most attractive looking potato chip. Manufacturers have been buying up local crops of this variety ever since digging started and the supply is beginning to run short, according to Mr. James. The demand is stronger this year than ever before, he said.

Russets are preferred for chipping chiefly because their composition of well-balanced starch and sugar content is just right to produce a crispy, light brown chip without dark sports or shading that usually come through the presence of too much sugar in relation to starch content, Mr. James explained. It is largely a chemical reaction, he added.

Many potato chip manufacturers already have turned to varieties other than Russet to obtain their supply for the year ahead.

Another factor that enters into the manufacture of top grade potato chips is the temperature of the spud prior to chipping and cooking. When potatoes are too cold the sugar content appears to predominate and causes dark coloring in the product.

CONSERVATIVE ATTITUDE EVIDENT AS PENN'A FARM REAL ESTATE VALUES ADVANCE SLIGHTLY

PENNSYLVANIA farm land values, which increased 7 per cent during 1943 compared with 1942, made a further advance in the past eight months.

According to information provided by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service, farm real estate values for the Nation as a whole advanced 3 per cent during the four months ended November 1, 1944. A similar advance was reported in the four months ended July 1.

Since farm values for the nation advanced 15 per cent last year compared with the previous year, and Pennsylvania values rose only 7 per cent in the same period, Department officials believe end-of-the-year surveys will show a smaller increase for Pennsylvania than for the Nation in the current farm real estate year which ends March 1, 1945.

Latest information from the U. S. Department of Agriculture indicates that rather wide-spread increases in farm real estate values may be expected during the coming year, averaging between 10 and 15 per cent for the country as a whole. This will be somewhat below the increase of 15 per cent last year, but greater than two years ago.

A conservative attitude appears to exist in Pennsylvania with respect to values of farm real estate, a Department spokesman said. While the price per acre is still advancing in some areas, it is believed to have about reached a peak without encountering conditions of overinflation, he said.

The volume of voluntary farm sales over the country last year was up one-fifth from the previous year, the highest of record. Between March and December of this year the volume of transfer was about 10 per cent less than for the same period in 1943.

It is reported that the demand for land will become stronger after the war with the large-scale return of servicemen and war workers to rural areas, and when there will be a greater supply of farm labor.

RECORD ACREAGE OF OATS IS GROWN FOR SEED CERTIFICATION

IN THE best oats growing year that Pennsylvania farmers have experienced for some time, a record number of acres of this crop were accepted for State seed certification this year

Like other farm crops intended for seed certification to meet State standards, all oats fields entered for certification must be inspected regularly during the growing season by agents of the Bureau of Plant Industry.

According to K. W. Lauer, in charge of seed certification work, approximately 2,845 acres were entered by farmers this year for seed certification. This is nearly three times the acreage entered in 1943 and about five times the acreage entered in 1940. Condition of the crop this year was such that only 860 acres had to be rejected, mostly on the basis of mixture of varieties, and the presence of noxious weeds and disease. This left a record total of 1,985 acres to pass all field inspections. Last year only about 760 acres were certified.

To qualify for final certification samples of grain that passed the field inspection requirements must show a purity of 99 per cent or more and pass germination tests of not less than 90 per cent. No grain can be sold as certified until these laboratory requirements have been met.

Growing conditions were quite favorable for oats production during 1944 and the amount of certified seed available for planting the 1945 crop will be of record proportions.

Vicland was the leading variety to pass field certification tests, a total of 812 acres. Other varieties in order of acreage to be certified are Beaver, Cornellian, Patterson, Penn'a 90-A-27, Boone, Lenroc, Vanguard, Victory, Tama, and Wayne.

MEAT INSPECTIONS

IN ITS efforts to provide consumers with only wholesome meats and meat products, the Bureau of Animal Industry during October inspected more than 50,000 animals while they were being slaughtered and found that 136 carcasses had to be condemned as unfit for human consumption. In the previous month 154 carcasses were condemned out of nearly 40,000 inspected.

The meat hygiene division, in its slaughter house inspections, has found it necessary to close 17 so far this year due to unsanitary conditions found in the establishments.

Farmers of Pennsylvania own more than 1,607,000 cattle worth nearly $170,000,000, including 924,000 milk cows and heifers, two years old and older, valued at more than $131,000,000.

PRICE LEVEL AND FARM DOLLAR DROP BELOW 1943 MARKS

THERE was an increase of two points in the index of prices received by Pennsylvania farmers for principal agricultural products during the month ended November 15, the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service announces.

On the basis of average prices received 1909-14 as 100, the index for all products advanced from 207 to 209. While there was a decline of 3 points in prices received for all farm crops to 204, it was more than offset by an increase of 3 points in livestock and livestock products to an index of 211 during the period October 15 to November 15.

Compared with prices received a year earlier, the level for all farm products showed a drop of 1 point.

The purchasing power of the farmers' dollar as of November 15 was 5 cents less than on the same date last year. Based on the dollar being worth 100 cents for the 1909-14 period, it was worth $1.22 in mid-November, the same as a month earlier.

The index of prices farmers pay for all needed goods and services advanced one point during the month to 171, and was 5 points above the level reported November 15, 1943.

Prices received by farmers of the State in mid-November of this year showed no change for meat animals as a group. Dairy products advanced 2 points and poultry and eggs 12 points. Wheat advanced 4 cents a bushel, rye 1 cent, apples 25 cents and hay $1.40 per ton. Comparisons follow:

	Nov. 15 1943	Oct. 15 1944	Nov. 15 1944
Wheat, Bu.	$ 1.60	$ 1.46	$ 1.50
Corn, Bu.	1.28	1.41	1.39
Oats, Bu.	.89	.78	.78
Barley, Bu.	1.21	1.20	1.20
Rye, Bu.	1.21	1.21	1.22
Buckwheat, Bu.	1.29	1.09	1.05
Soybeans, Bu.	1.80	2.00	2.00
Potatoes, Bu.	1.70	1.85	1.70
Hay, loose Ton	16.20	16.60	18.00
Apples, Bu.	2.55	1.90	2.15
Hogs, Cwt.	14.00	14.60	14.30
Beef Cattle, Cwt.	10.80	12.70	12.70
Veal Calves, Cwt.	13.70	15.30	15.50
Sheep, Cwt.	5.30	4.65	4.65
Lambs, Cwt.	12.70	13.00	12.90
Milk cows, Head	154.00	148.00	149.00
Horses, Head	127.00	115.00	107.00
Mules, Head	136.00	134.00	124.00
Chickens, Lb.	.283	.272	.276
Turkeys, Lb.	.40	.38	.41
Milk, wholesale Cwt.	3.70	3.65	3.70
Milk, retail, Qt.	.142	.143	.143
Butter, Lb.	.50	.49	.49
Butterfat, Lb.	.50	.50	.49
Eggs, Doz.	.547	.464	.499
Wool, Lb.	.43	.43	.42

HIGH IN BUCKWHEAT

PRELIMINARY estimates indicate that Pennsylvania will take first rank among all states this year in the production of buckwheat. Comparisons as of October 1 show the State leading New York, nearest competitor, with close to 3,000,000 bushels. Pennsylvania ranked second in 1943.

STATE FARM SHOW MEETINGS—HARRISBURG—JANUARY 9, 10, 11, 1945

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PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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SOME MAJOR FACTORS INFLUENCING POST-WAR AGRICULTURE; FAMILY SIZE FARM IMPORTANT

SECRETARY Horst, addressing the 72nd annual meeting of the Pennsylvania State Grange in Harrisburg on December 12, listed some major factors that he declared would influence post-war agriculture. Among them he included the following:

1. Small, family type farms, where all work can be done by members of the family, will continue as the most important contributors to food production;
2. Such farmers will have to depend more on cooperative buying and selling than ever before;
3. All Pennsylvania farmers, including fruit and vegetable growers and poultrymen, after the war will be forced to meet increased competition from other areas due to cheaper production costs and rapid transportation of perishable foods;
4. Producers will find housewives more discriminating as to freshness and quality in their food purchases.

"The answer lies in more efficient production and marketing of Pennsylvania farm products," Secretary Horst declared, adding:

"Wartime technological developments, applied to farm machinery and equipment, may revolutionize some phases of production, marketing and distribution.

"Many post-war problems can and will be met by farmers as individuals. Some will require cooperation of established governmental agencies and the assistance of our research and educational institutions and services.

"We now enjoy well-established markets close to our farms. We must prepare to hold them. Their loss would bring disaster to Pennsylvania agriculture. We can meet some of this competition with more and better grading and inspection of fruits, vegetables and other farm products. Every farm unit must have a sound production program."

He said the Pennsylvania Post-War Planning Commission is considering these and related problems covering land use and conservation, and rural health, education and recreation. He is chairman of the Commission's committee on agriculture.

BETTER RECORDS AT EGG LAYING CONTEST

SIX Keystone State pens were among the ten highest at the end of the first eight weeks in the 14th Pennsylvania Official Egg Laying Test.

Paul J. Turek, in charge of operation of the test, said that 66 per cent of the 1,196 birds in the 92 pens entered laid an egg every day for the 8-week period. This is nearly 13 per cent higher than for the same period in the last Egg Laying Test, conducted in 1942-43, and the number of eggs laid was approximately 22,000 greater. The weight of eggs was then running about the same as in the last contest.

All Pennsylvania pens in the first ten were White Leghorns. In third place was a pen owned by George M. Anthony, Strausstown, which laid 640 eggs for a total of 626.70 points on the basis of each 2-ounce egg equaling one point. Anthony also had a pen in sixth place with 614 eggs and 603 points, and another in ninth place with 607 eggs and 590.35 points.

Guy A. Leader, York, has a pen that at eight weeks ranked seventh with 614 eggs and 600.70 points. Burr's Poultry Farm, Tunkhannock, was eighth with 593 eggs and 591.05 points; Rinker Poultry Farm, Catasauqua, was tenth with 598 eggs and 584.45 points.

OUTPUT OF DRIED MILK QUADRUPLED

DUE to heavy demands by the Armed Forces and lend-lease, production of dried whole milk has been quadrupled in Pennsylvania, according to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

While in 1942 only 1,122,000 pounds of dried whole milk were produced in Pennsylvania plants equipped for such manufacture, last year nearly 4,370,000 pounds were prepared, mostly for overseas shipment. However, production of condensed whole milk in 1943 was 4,000,000 pounds less than for 1942.

Increased production also is reported for sweetened condensed skimmed milk, which last year jumped nearly 5 million pounds to a total production of slightly more than 22 million pounds.

MORE FERTILIZER, LIME BEING USED

AS A part of their effort to increase wartime food production, farmers of Pennsylvania last year used 35,000 more tons of commercial fertilizer and 130,000 more tons of lime, according to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. The value of all fertilizers and lime used was about $18,000,000, which exceeds the 1942 value by $2,610,000.

Lancaster County farmers used more commercial fertilizers than those of any other county, and in the use of lime Westmoreland County farmers ranked first. In Lancaster the fertilizers used totaled more than 37,000 tons worth $1,222,000. Lime used in Westmoreland amounted to nearly 42,000 tons worth $180,000.

York, Bucks, Chester and Franklin Counties ranked in that order following Lancaster in the amounts of commercial fertilizers used last year. Next to Westmoreland in the use of lime were Mercer, Butler, York, and Crawford.

EGG SUPPORT PRICES PROVE DISAPPOINTING

"A SEVERE blow to Pennsylvania farmers and poultrymen" is contained in a WFA order issued December 11 which set a minimum 1945 support price of 27 cents a dozen for candled eggs, and 24 cents a dozen for uncandled current receipt eggs, according to E. J. Lawless, Jr., Bureau of Markets.

"Farmers and poultrymen are between two fires," he declared. "Feed costs are about the same as a year ago, with no signs of retreating. With lower support prices there will be insufficient return to meet higher labor costs, and many producers believe they will have to go out of business."

There was no support price for candled eggs during 1944, Mr. Lawless explained. The support price for the coming year on uncandled eggs is six cents per dozen under that for 1944, he said. The new order means most producers will get six cents per dozen less in 1945 because few will be able to candle their eggs.

"The WFA order is believed by farmers to be a drastic effort to force reductions in the size of farm flocks," Mr. Lawless added.

HATCHERY REJECT EGG TRADE EXPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT

ANNOUNCING conviction of a seventh violator of the Pennsylvania "eggs unfit for food" law, Secretary Horst recently said Department investigators are gathering evidence against others who are allegedly diverting hatchery reject eggs into food channels and that additional prosecutions will follow.

"The more we get into this thing the worse it looks," he declared. "Interstate transportation of unmarked, unbroken and undenatured reject eggs has been established and we expect Federal Food and Drug agents soon will issue citations against those known to be engaged in this traffic."

Latest to plead guilty to violation of the act is Jacob Rabinowitz, Philadelphia, fined $200 and costs as a first offender in a hearing before a Philadelphia magistrate. Rabinowitz holds a State egg opening license, and admitted possession of a large quantity of undenatured eggs unfit for food.

It was also announced that the last of an original group of six against whom prosecutions were brought in recent weeks by J. R. Heilman, representing the Bureau of Foods and Chemistry, had entered a plea of guilty before a Philadelphia magistrate and was fined $200 and costs. He is Simon Staple of Philadelphia.

Joseph Hiller, also of Philadelphia, was the only dealer to plead not guilty, but was convicted in a hearing before an alderman in Harrisburg, and fined $500 and costs. Others to plead guilty and be assessed $500 fines and costs were: Joseph Davis, Leraysville, Bradford County; Sam German, Scranton baker; H. F. Emmons and Irvin Taylor, Lancaster. Inter-state transportation of hatchery reject eggs to Frenchtown, N. J., was admitted at the Taylor hearing in Lancaster.

DEPARTMENT STAFF MEMBERS ADDRESS FARM WEEK MEETS

BUSIEST man during the 29th annual Pennsylvania State Farm Show Week meetings January 9-11 will be Secretary Horst, according to the programs for more than a score of state-wide farm organizations scheduled to meet in Harrisburg on those days.

In addition to presiding at the opening general session on Tuesday evening, January 9, in the Forum of the Education Building, Secretary Horst has been invited to speak before six associations, three of the meetings coming in one morning.

Matters pertaining to seed certification will be presented by the Secretary on Tuesday afternoon at a meeting of the Pennsylvania Crop Improvement Association. Next morning he will appear in succession at annual meetings of the Society of Farm Women of Pennsylvania, the State Beekeepers Association and the Pennsylvania Jersey Cattle Club. On Thursday morning he will present war bond awards to winners of the annual Ten-Ton Tomato Club production contest, and Friday night will speak on marketing problems at the annual banquet of the Potato Growers' Association.

Dr. C. P. Bishop, director of the State Bureau of Animal Industry, is to address three groups, the Pennsylvania Swine Breeders on Tuesday, the Holstein Association on Wednesday and the Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association on Thursday, reviewing livestock disease control work.

Other Department staff members to address meetings include D. M. James, Bureau of Markets and H. B. Kirk, Bureau of Plant Industry.

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GOVERNOR MARTIN AND W. D. FULLER OPENING SPEAKERS

GOVERNOR Edward Martin and Walter D. Fuller, regional chairman of the Committee for Economic Development, will be the speakers at the general session which marks the formal opening of the 29th annual Pennsylvania State Farm Show Week meetings on Tuesday evening, January 9, in the Forum of the Education Building. Meetings of agricultural associations, sponsored by the State Farm Show Commission, will continue through Friday evening, January 12.

The Tuesday evening general session will be open to the general public, and launches a series of approximately 60 sessions scheduled for the week by 22 state-wide farm organizations. For the third straight year there will be no commercial or farm products and livestock exhibits, since the Farm Show Building is occupied by the U. S. Army.

Educational meetings have featured all Farm Shows in the past. Secretary Horst said that meetings last January proved of great benefit to farmers in assisting with war-time production problems. The types of programs arranged by the various groups for the coming meetings indicate even greater possibilities for assistance through discussion of mutual problems. All associations have listed problems of current interest, and many will include matters pertaining to post-war agriculture.

"Farmers fully realize the importance of industrial prosperity in relation to agricultural prosperity," the Secretary explained. "Cooperation between industry and agriculture will be taken up by several groups, along with post-war planning for more efficient production and the marketing of farm products.

"We expect that industrial-agricultural relations will be keynoted by Mr. Fuller, who is president of the Curtis Publishing Company, Philadelphia, and former president of the National Association of Manufacturers."

Six organizations will start meetings on Tuesday morning or afternoon, with others getting under way Wednesday and Thursday.

Secretary Horst, chairman of the State Farm Show Commission, said the conference objectives, as taken from the types of programs prepared for approximately 60 different sessions of the cooperating groups, boil down to the following:

First, greatest attention will be given to increased and efficient food production in wartime under continuing handicaps of farm labor and machinery shortages; second, current and future cooperation between agriculture and industry; third, post-war problems of agricultural production, management, and marketing.

Each group that is meeting under auspices of the Farm Show Commission is an independent voluntary membership organization, the Secretary explained. It is his belief that through the coming meetings the farmers themselves will work out many of their own problems. The programs disclose that some of the Nation's leading agriculturists and businessmen will participate.

In addition to the groups that are members of the State Farm Show Committee, the State Council of Farm Organizations will hold a meeting this year on Monday, January 8, the day before the Commission - sponsored meetings start. The Council is composed of elected delegates from 35 state-wide agricultural associations. Ralph C. Culver, Laceyville, is president.

FARM INCOME

CASH receipts from farm marketings in Pennsylvania for the month of September 1944 are estimated at $53,010,000. This is an increase of $4,783,000 over the same month in 1943. It is broken down into $23,616,000 estimated received for crops and $29,394,000 received for livestock and livestock products.

RURAL CARRIERS GET LIVESTOCK INVENTORY

PRIOR to the start of the regular five-year United States Census of Agriculture the first week in January, more than 1,500 rural mail carriers in Pennsylvania cooperated during December in the annual livestock and poultry inventory of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Each rural delivery carrier asked about a dozen farmers to list on a card a few important items concerning the livestock on their farms. The information thus obtained provides the United States and Pennsylvania Departments of Agriculture with quickly available data on the number of farm animals in the State.

While the 1945 U. S. Agricultural Census, starting January 2, will include such data from every farm, the State survey forms the basis for measuring the changes that have taken place in livestock numbers during the past year. The need for such annual surveys by the Crop Reporting Service takes on added significance in wartime, according to E. L. Gasteiger, agricultural satistician.

The last U. S. farm census was taken in 1940. Because of the long intervals between censuses and the time required to do the tremendous job of enumeration, tabulation and publication, the need had developed to use methods of which the rural carrier survey is one, to obtain information on important items to be made promptly available.

OVERSEAS PACKAGES MAY CARRY PESTS

SINCE some of the Nation's most destructive plant pests and diseases came "by accident" from foreign countries, all relatives and friends of servicemen overseas are cautioned to examine carefully any plants or seeds sent to them through the mails from war areas, and to destroy any that might contain insect eggs, grubs or suspicious-looking scale.

Existing infestations of the European corn borer, Japanese beetle, gypsy moth, Mediterranean fruit fly, bean weevil, vetch weevil and various other insects that annually cause losses amounting to millions of dollars to Pennsylvania crops, can be traced to imported fruits, vegetables or seeds, according to Dr. Thomas L. Guyton, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry.

Because gifts from overseas servicemen might be potential carriers of some plant pest new to this country, packages usually are examined by Federal inspectors at the port of entry. If they are cleared the packages are stamped "Entry Permitted" or "Inspected and Released." When persons receive packages of seeds, bulbs, roots or plants that are not so marked, and there is reason to suspect the presence of some form of insect or disease, the package may be sent to the State Bureau of Plant Industry at Harrisburg for examination.

BROILER TYPE CHICKS IN GREATER DEMAND

CONTINUING strong consumer demands for poultry meat, plus improved feed supplies from this year's crops, has been a factor in an increased demand for broiler type baby chicks from commercial hatcheries in Pennsylvania. However, this improvement has been largely offset by a scarcity of hatching eggs, according to a Federal-State survey.

Reduction in the size of 1945 farm flocks is seen in the fact that the 1,306,000 baby chicks produced in Pennsylvania during the month of November was 19 per cent less than the number produced in November last year, and 26 per cent higher than the average for the month for the 5-year period, 1938 to 1942 inclusive.

Chick production from January through November 1944 totaling 62,587,000, is 17 per cent below that for the same period in 1943, evidence that farm flocks will be smaller in 1945 than in 1944.

HEAVY GRAIN RATIONS BRING RECORD MILK PRODUCTION IN NOV.

MILK production on Pennsylvania farms in November increased 10 per cent over that for the same month last year, according to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

While the total of 368 million pounds of milk produced during the month was 8 per cent less than for October, it broke all known records for the month of November which date back 15 years. Production per cow was seven-tenths of a pound more on December 1 than on the same day last year.

At the same time dairy farmers set a new high record in the amount of grain fed to milk cows, chief reason for the new production record. On December 1 the average amount fed per cow was 7.3 pounds compared with 7.0 pounds fed December 1, 1943, and 5.9 pounds average for the 10-year period 1933 to 1942. In only one other state (New Jersey) were dairymen feeding more grains on that date.

While grain feeds and concentrates are in better supply now than a year ago, some farmers are concerned about the future supply of roughage. Hay production this year was less than last, but grain crops are reported to be approximately 20 million bushels more than in 1943. The relative abundance of home-grown grains has encouraged dairy farmers to feed heavier grain rations this fall.

There was a slight but seasonal decline in the percentage of cows milked during November. This decline was less than last year for the same period. Many farmers expect a large number of cows to freshen after January 1.

EFFICIENCY IN EGG PRODUCTION RISES

PENNSYLVANIA farm flocks have stepped up their egg production efficiency to the point where fewer hens and pullets in November gave their owners more eggs than for the same month last year, according to the monthly chicken and egg report of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Increased efficiency netted a total production of 173 million eggs in November, a new all-time high record for that month. The number of layers was 18,214,000, which was 144,000 fewer than for the same month last year. Yet the records show that this smaller number of layers produced 15 million more eggs than the larger number (18,358,000) produced in November of 1943.

The answer lies in the fact that this year each layer averaged 9.48 eggs for the month compared with 8.61 for the same month last year. This was very close to one egg more, or an increase of 10 per cent in the rate of lay per bird. Mild, open weather up to about November 20, and the practice of poultrymen in culling out poor layers also are factors. Pullets are increasing production as they get older.

Egg production for the 11-month period, January through November, is placed at 2,590,000,000, or 7 per cent above production during the same period in 1943.

Commercial poultrymen were receiving this November about 5 per cent less for eggs but paying about the same for feed as last November. Compared with October, feed costs declined 4 per cent, but were still higher than a year earlier. Prices received for eggs advanced almost 15 per cent over October but were nearly 3 cents a dozen below November 1943.

Egg-feed ratios showed that for November it took the value of 79 eggs to buy 100 pounds of feed, whereas a year ago only 73 eggs were required.

Pennsylvania farm housewives make about two-thirds as much butter as creameries in the State. In 1943 creamery butter totaled over 12 million pounds, farm butter 8,600,000 pounds.

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End of Volume